

## Maramataha River

The Maramataha is a large backcountry river that receives little fishing pressure due to difficulties of access compared to the nearby Ongarue. Nevertheless the Maramataha offers a different fishing experience from other southern rivers and is well worth the effort.

From its confluence with the Ongarue River the Maramataha meanders for about 5 kilometres across farmland providing pleasant fishing on browns and rainbows averaging about 1.2kg. This is an easy section to fish, mostly wadeable with clear banks. Access is gained by crossing private farmland from Waione Road.

Upstream from Waione Road the Maramataha River becomes much more rugged, flowing through a bush clad gorge. This section holds a low population of large rainbow trout, averaging 2-3kg, in generally very clear water. Access to the Maramataha can be gained across farmland from Kokomiko Road or through the Pureora Forest from Maramataha Road (4-wheel drive required). A long, steep walk requires a high level of fitness.

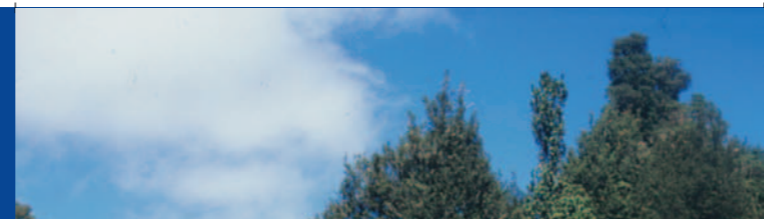
## Continued angler access - it's primarily up to you!

Less than 50% of the rivers in the Auckland/Waikato region are covered by the Queens Chain (riparian reserve). But notwithstanding the presence or absence of the Queens Chain, anglers are dependent upon landowner goodwill to fully enjoy angling opportunities.

Accordingly make sure you take the time to extend to landowners the common courtesies that you would expect:

- Ask their permission before you cross their land
- Don't
  - clamber over fences
  - walk through crops
  - disturb stock
  - leave gates other than as you found them
  - deposit rubbish
  - take your dog onto a landowners property unless you square it away with them that it is OK to do so. Hydatids and sheep measles can pose a serious threat to a farmers livelihood; so leave your dog at home unless you're certain that the farmer doesn't object to it on their land.

In our experience very few landowners will refuse access to genuine anglers.



# Whanganui Headwaters Trout Fishing



**Fish & Game**  
NEW ZEALAND  
AUCKLAND/WAIKATO REGION

## Ongarue River

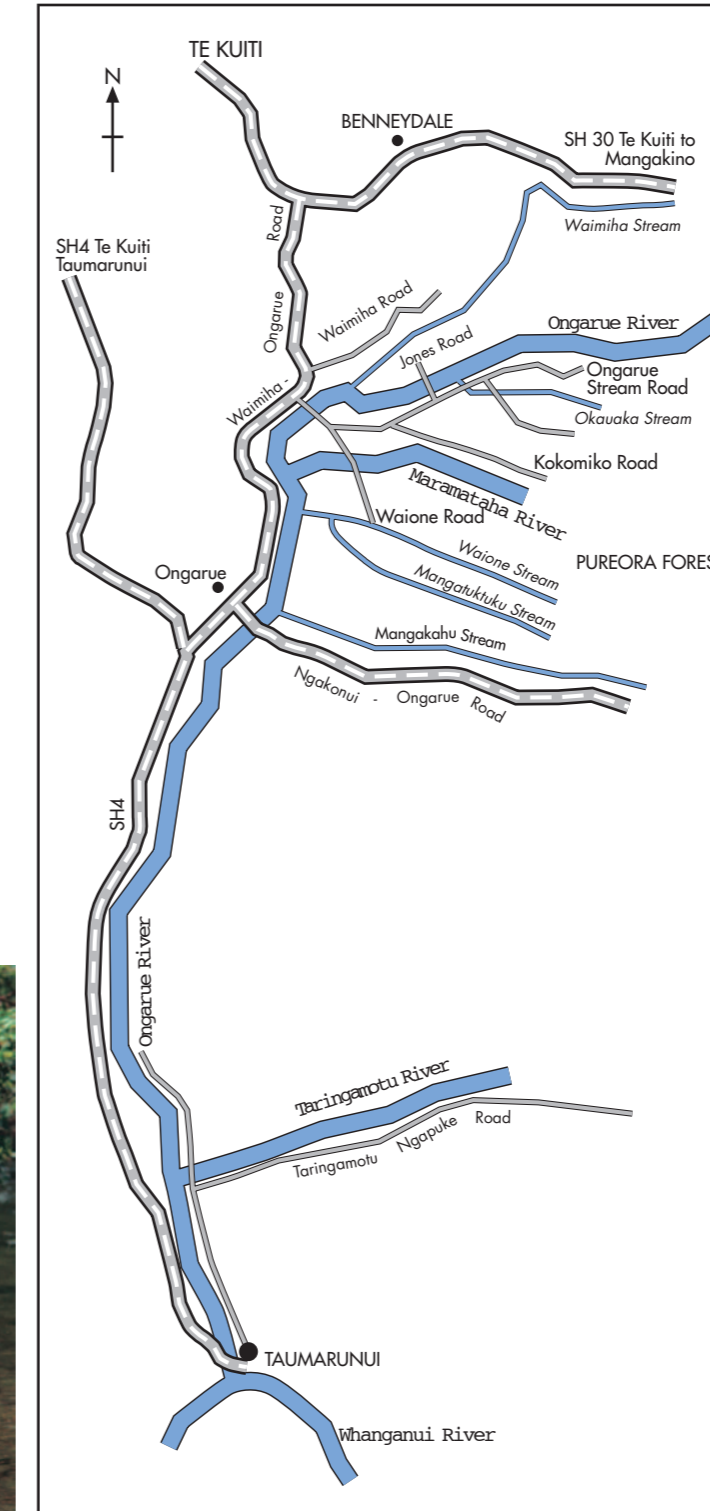
Despite its relative remoteness the Ongarue is a popular river offering a good catch rate of large rainbow trout as well as many kilometres of fishing water.

The lower reaches below the confluence with the Waimiha are rarely fished, somewhat surprising as this section offers some very good spin fishing waters especially in the gorge downstream from the Waimiha Township. Access is from the Waimiha-Ongarue Road which runs parallel to the river.

Access to the middle reaches can be gained across farmland from Ongarue Stream Road, which runs parallel to the river (landowners permission required). Here there is attractive water as the river meanders across pastoral land with good deep pools, wadeable shingle runs and lots of fish. Further upstream the Ongarue flows through extensive bush areas and short stretches of farmland offering superb water for nymph and summer cicada fishing.

An upper tributary, the Okauaka Stream, also offers excellent fishing. Although from the bridge the Okauaka looks a rugged impassable stream, it does hold much attractive water that is easily wadeable.

An esplanade reserve provides public access on both sides of the Ongarue River, including the Okauaka Stream, upstream from the bridge on Jones Road. Downstream from the bridge, public access exists for only the first kilometre.



## Waimiha Stream

A delightful stream holding large numbers of rainbows and the occasional big brown. The lower reaches offer clear, low banks providing relatively easy fishing - a perfect place for the beginner. Further upstream, the Waimiha flows through scrub and native forest providing attractive fishing waters. Some good fish are taken from this section. Access is from Waimiha Road across farmland. Permission is required from the farmhouse just north of the Waimiha-Ongarue Road turnout. In the upper reaches the Waimiha is a small stream that meanders across farmland with stable pools and runs. The streambed consists primarily of papa rock, and in common with other papa bed rivers holds an abundance of fish. This section is highly regarded for its dryfly fishing on big brown trout and smaller but more abundant rainbows. The upper reaches run parallel to State Highway 30 (Te Kuiti - Mangakino) east of Benneydale, with access across private farmland.

## Waione Stream

A large stream that flows across farmland and patches of bush at the end of Waione Road with a good population of rainbows averaging about 1 kg with larger fish in the headwaters. Permission is required from the farmhouse at the end of Waione Road. The Mangatukutuku Stream at the back of the farm also holds trout.

## Mangakahu Stream

The Mangakahu is a small wadeable stream flowing over a pebble/shingle bed. The lower reaches are overgrown with willows with difficult fishing. However further upstream, the Mangakahu flows through regenerating scrub and access is easier. Although only a small stream it does hold large trout that have moved up from the Ongarue River. The Ngakonui-Ongarue Road runs parallel to the Mangakahu Stream and gives good access. This road can be reached via the Waimiha-Ongarue Road from State Highway 4 (Te Kuiti - Taumarunui).

## Pungapunga River

A small delightful stream that offers good fly fishing early and late in the season. Best fished in the lower reaches where the stream flows across farmland with the occasional patch of scrub and willows. The Pungapunga enters the Whakapapa River at Manunui and State Highway 41 runs parallel to the lower reaches.

## Taringamotu River

A small river that joins the Ongarue River at Taumarunui, and provides about 10 kilometres of fishing across pastoral land. Easily wadeable with a shingle bed and clear banks. Rainbow trout averaging about a 1kg are common. Access is across farmland from the Taumarunui-Ngapuke Road.



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## Whanganui headwaters

In the headwaters of the Whanganui River there are many superb rivers with numerous trout, easy access and few anglers. Several of these rivers, including the Ongarue and Waimiha, are only a moderate drive (1.5 hours) from the central Waikato, but to fish more southern rivers, anglers are best advised to spend a weekend in this district that abounds with spectacular trout waters.

There are many places to stay overnight in this major tourist district with motels and cheap bunkhouses at Taumarunui, Owhango and National Park. In addition, there are several campsites along the Ongarue, Whanganui and Whakapapa Rivers.

This pamphlet only describes those Whanganui rivers in the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game region. The rivers south of National Park, including the outstanding trout fisheries in the Manganuiateao and the Retaruke Rivers, are in the Taranaki region and information on these fisheries can be obtained from Taranaki Fish & Game.

## Whakapapa River

The Whakapapa is a large river that flows from the northern slopes of Mt Ruapehu, along the edge of the Tongariro Forest, before joining the Whanganui River at Kakahi. It is one of New Zealand's finest trout fisheries with rainbow and brown trout averaging 2kg. Generally the water quality is pristine, very cold and crystal clear - in the upper reaches water clarity usually exceeds 10 metres.

For most of its length the Whakapapa flows through native forest alternating between turbulent rapids, deep pools and



long boulder runs. This is certainly not a river for the faint hearted - there are few easy places to cross and some caution is required.

Access to the lower reaches is from the end of Te Rena Road via the village of Kakahi. This is the most popular fishing area on the Whakapapa, providing the easiest fishing as well as giving good access to the nearby Whanganui River. Upstream from Kakahi there are many good pools and the crossings are comparatively easy.

Access to the middle reaches is from Owhango where a good metal road leads to an old timber company bridge across the river. Downstream from the bridge a track on the true left bank leads to several large pools before a narrow gorge prevents further access. Upstream from the bridge a short road on the right leads to several paths providing access to many kilometres of spectacular wilderness fishing with a procession of productive pools and boulder runs.

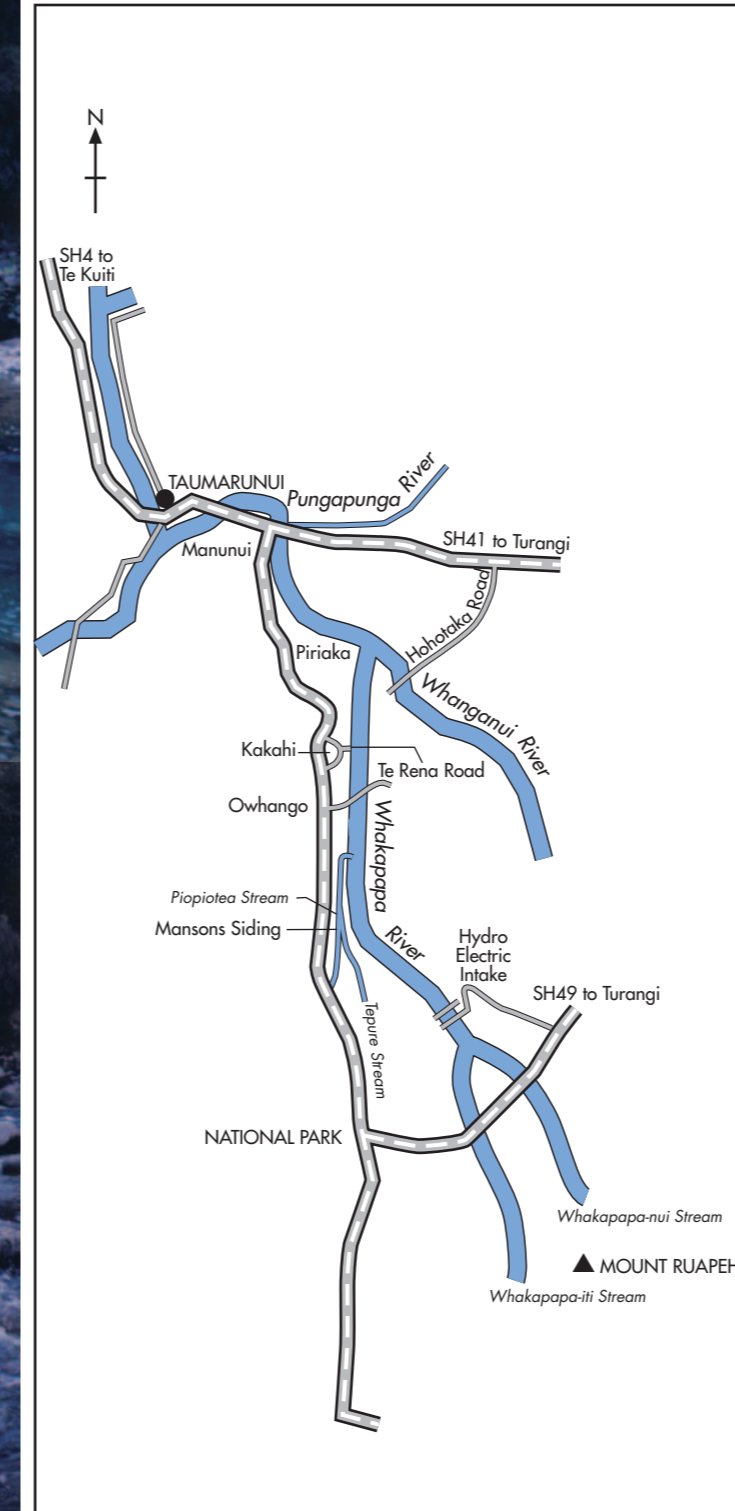
South of Owhango, access is available at several locations across private farmland from State Highway 4 (Taumarunui - National Park). Permission is not always given because of stock requirements. Some maps show a road leading from Mansons Siding to the river, but this is a farm road and closed to public access.

Access to the upper reaches can be gained from the intake structure for the Tongariro Power Scheme. From State Highway 47 (National Park - Turangi) a good sealed road provides access across Taurewa Station to the intake structure. Prior permission is required from the station manager (07 892 2733). Above the intake the trout population consists of a few very large rainbows.

Below the intake brown trout are also present but overall trout numbers remain low, however there is always a good chance of catching a trophy in these waters. Fishing this area requires frequent, difficult river crossings and is not recommended for the inexperienced.

Several tributaries of the Whakapapa also offer good fishing. The Piopioatea Stream flows across farmland adjacent to State Highway 4. Access is across farmland at Mansons Siding (permission required from the farmhouse). Here the Piopioatea has been detrimentally affected by erosion but there is good fishing both up and downstream. The Tepure Stream, which joins the Piopioatea at Mansons Siding, also holds trout.

The Whakapapa-iti and Whakapapa-nui Streams converge to form the Whakapapa River. Both streams hold only a few fish, generally large rainbows (3kg+) in very clear water, with the best fishing in the lower reaches.



## Whanganui River

Within the Auckland/Waikato Region, the Whanganui River frequently changes in character and thus offers a variety of fishing waters.

Below Taumarunui the Whanganui River receives the full flow of the Ongarue River and along with the considerable increase in flow acquires a brownish tinge. This section offer a unique experience for North Island anglers of a very large river that still has an interesting sequence of pools and runs. Access is easy as the river runs adjacent to River Road.

Between Taumarunui and Kakahi there are numerous good fishing pools, many of which have been signposted by the Ruapehu Fish & Game Club. This section of the Whanganui consists of long boulder runs and large deep pools with numerous trout, both rainbows and browns, averaging about 1.2kg. Access can be gained from Taumarunui, Mahoe (Mahoe Rd), Piriaka (from the power station), Manunui, and Kakahi (Ako Street).

Above the confluence with the Whakapapa, the Whanganui changes to a relatively sedate river flowing over pebbles and sand through a pleasant rural landscape. Access can be obtained from the end of Te Rena Road (Kakahi) by crossing the Whakapapa River and taking the short path across Whakapapa Island. Otherwise access can be gained by walking downstream from Hohotaka Road (permission required from landowner).

Above Hohotaka Road, the Whanganui provides typical backcountry fishing with deep pools, long boulder runs and clear water. Permission is required from the landowner at the farmhouse by the bridge (Whangaiepeki X Trust). Hohotaka Road is a metalled road about 8 km east of Manunui on State Highway 41 (Taumarunui - Turangi).

Access to the headwaters within the Tongariro National Park is via old logging roads from Owhango or State Highway 47 (National Park - Turangi). A 4-wheel drive vehicle, motor bike or mountain bike is required, but access does require some local knowledge or a good map. This section is rugged backcountry fishing requiring an above average level of fitness and the occasional swim. Good numbers of fish averaging about 2kg can be expected. There is little fishable water above the confluence of the Whanganui with the Mangatepopo Stream because of water abstraction by the Tongariro Power Scheme.

