Historic Walks

of Thames

These walks were devised to accompany the information contained in the pamphlets: Historic Grahamstown, Historic Shortland and Tararu and A Walk Around Historic Thames from the Thames Information Centre. Colour coded and given names by which the areas were known in the Goldfield Era from 1867, they take in historic buildings, reserves, natural beauty spots and cemeteries.
Grahamam and Moananai

Features:
- Thames Coastal Walkway as two circuits, Caledonian Mine site, first gold bonanza site, Thames Railway site, seafront life.
- Distance/Time: 6.5 km/hrs plus diversions.

Start:
- Danby Field Car park or Brown St, near Pak n Save.

Circuit A: to Kuram Bay 4.6 km return
- Turn left at Danby Field, walk past playground, turn left at roundabout, right into Brown St to Thames Coastal Walkway sign, at alternative parking place. Follow path to Karaka Bird Hide, small gauge rail track and pohutukawa to site of original Grahamam Station. At Victoria Park investigate 1902 River War Memorial, follow sheet path beside Croquet Club (1906) and Band Rotunda (1906). Veer left at T section ahead, cross footbridge at Moananai sign. Pass remains of Burke St Wharf. Follow path to Kuram Bay Reserve. Walk to BBQ area. Cross Tarara Rd to footpath, turn right and head to Kuram Creek, first gold bonanza (Shotover). On to Magnes Turnfire when old fire pump, Caledonian Gold Mine (richest mine on the Thames) and finally, Stumper Battery. Turn right into Burke St and left into Beach Rd, walk beside A&G Price Foundry (1871), left into Williamson St, right into Brown St passing Sunkist Lodge, originally 1869 Lady Brown Hotel and the Wharf Hotel/Lady Brown (rafted here in 1865). Pass Scrip Corner on left. Admire old dwellings, reach Mineralogical Museum (Te Aparangiuri Urupa). Return along Brown St.

Circuit B: to Shortland Wharf 2.5 km return
- From Brown St car park, cross bridge, follow path behind Pak n Save, cross footbridge, walk beside Danby Field and mangroves to the Richmond sign. Path leads over a footbridge to Shortland Wharf sign. Pass fisheries on the wharf, exit onto Queen St, opposite Grey St, turn left, head towards shopping mall, passing Thames Railway Station originally built in 1898 on the site of the Grahamam Station (now Ngati Maru ruahuna office). Return to Danby Field parking area, or pass the playground and replica Wakatere paddle steamer, noting site of 1872 gasworks opposite, to Danby Field parking area, or pass the playground and replica Wakatere paddle steamer, noting site of 1872 gasworks opposite, to Danby Field parking area, or pass the playground and replica Wakatere paddle steamer, noting site of 1872 gasworks opposite, to Danby Field parking area, or pass the playground and replica Wakatere paddle steamer, noting site of 1872 gasworks opposite.

Low Tide Option:
- Follow curve of bay to Thames Sailing Club. Continue past reserve to end of Wilson St, along foreshore to Rennie St. Exit at Rennie St, or wander round the point to Tararu Stream then retrace steps.

High Tide Option:
- Cross SH 2 to footpath. Walk left, cross to Sailing Club, follow to the end of Wilson St, along foreshore to Rennie St. Exit at Rennie St, or turn right to continue along Hill St to Richmond Rd, then left into Franklyn St to meet The Terrace.

Distance/Time: 6 km/hr approx.

Features:
- Thames Coastal Walkway as two circuits, Caledonian Mine site, first gold bonanza site, Thames Railway site, seafront life.

Block 27 & Shortland

Features:
- Historic mining cottages, old oak trees, grand views, and Shortland Cemetery option.

Start:
- Car Park at Danby Field, Queen St beside Goldfields Shopping Mall.

Distance/Time: 1 hr 15 min return approx.

Stage 1:
- Refer to Blue walk for first stage and link in at Karaka Rd.

Stage 2:
- 50 metres up Karaka Rd is a TCDC walkway sign, head right, up narrow path and concrete steps to Edward St. Admire views of Thames. Cross road and follow walkway sign up more stairs, emerge on Sandles St. Cross here, go up St Patrick’s Row. At walkway sign follow path to Aquap sia St across Sealey St to Franklin St. Right original miner’s cottages. Left up Franklin St to meet the Terrace. Turn left, walk past Graham St, turn right into Sealey St. At the top turn left for aomin denum to old Thames Water Reservoir at end of Hill St, or turn right to continue along Hill St to Richmond Rd, then left into Mill St, pass the Consols Mine Shaft, then down cook Ct, right into Hill St, left into Hape Rd.

Stage 3:
- Down Hape Rd, left to The Terrace and left into Vernon St, to explore the Shortland Cemetery on Danby St. Turn right then left down Mt Pleasant Rd. Follow to the oak trees at the top of ‘Jacob’s Ladder’.

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Parawai and William Hall Memorial Reserve

Features:
- Grand views, historic places, William Hall Memorial Reserve, site of Hotunui, the meeting house now housed in Auckland Museum and frequented by thousands of visitors annually.

Start:
- Danby Field or Grey St, at base of Jacob’s Ladder site.

Stage 1:
- Park at Danby St, walk towards wharves, left into Grey St. Follow Grey St across Pollen, MacKay and Rolleston Streets to TCDC walkway sign at base of stairs at end.

Stage 2:
- Up stairway of ‘Jacob’s Ladder’. Walk up Mt Pleasant Rd, right into Harvey Cres, a 19th century housing subdivision, to Hauraki Tce. Cross this road into Korekore Crescent. Walk past playground to reserve. Follow path between fences into William Hall Memorial Reserve. Take right fork of path, enjoying exotic and native trees to the stream and bridge (you can exit here onto Brunton St). Continue on gravel path, back through reserve and exit onto Currie St at top. Down Currie St, right into Mount St, left into Mount View Rd, walk to meet Graton Rd

Stage 3:
- Opposite this intersection, at walkway sign follow track along former Thames Water Race to the top of Reserve Rd. Down Reserve Rd, turn left into Marshall Cres. Follow walkway sign down steps to Waikokie Rd. Turn right, then left into Brown Place. At its end a walkway sign leads over a bridge into the reserve, zigzagging out to Booms Ave. Turn right onto Booms Ave. Enjoy magnificent views and head down to Parawai Rd.

Stage 4:
- Head right along Parawai Rd, past the 1866 Holy Trinity Church (sometimes locally known as the Maori church), at mouth of Hereweka Stream and 1872 Brunton house to Fenton St, in vicinity of original site of Hotunui. Turn left here, then right into Heate St. At the end is the base of Jacob’s ladder in Grey St.

Tararu

Features:
- Coastal Walk to Tararu, Bird- watching, Historic buildings, Art Gallery, Butterfly House. There are Low Tide and High Tide options for this walk.

Start:
- Kuram Bay, Thames.

Distance/Time: 6 km/hr approx.

Low Tide Option:
- Follow curve of bay to Thames Sailing Club. Continue past reserve to end of Wilson St, along foreshore to Rennie St. Exit at Rennie St, or wander round the point to Tararu Stream then retrace steps.

High Tide Option:
- Cross SH 2 to footpath. Walk left, cross to Sailing Club, follow reserve to Princes Ave, where settlement built after WWI for immigrant workers from Britain, right into Robert St, left along Tararu Rd (SH22) and left into Wilson St. At end of Wilson St, take concrete path by retirement village to meet end of Rennie St. Right onto Tararu Rd, follow to Thames enjoying notable historic homes under Historic Places Trust. Explore Tararu Arts Centre, open daily 10am-4pm within the original Tararu School building, built in 1879. There is a butterfly house in this area, at Victoria Rd. Return to期末 of Wilson St, along foreshore to Rennie St. Exit at Rennie St, or turn right to continue along Hill St to Richmond Rd, then left into Franklyn St to meet The Terrace.