

OPENING IN 2018

# PIKE 29 MEMORIAL TRACK

A new Great Walk in Paparoa  
National Park



## PIKE29 MEMORIAL TRACK

A new Great Walk through the spectacular limestone landscapes and luxuriant forests of Paparoa National Park will be a memorial to the 29 men who died as a result of the Pike River Mine disaster on 19 November 2010.

The Pike29 Memorial Track is to be New Zealand's 10th Great Walk. It was chosen by the families of the Pike River men as a memorial that will bring lasting benefit to the West Coast region.

The Government has approved the new Great Walk and information centre put forward by the families.

### A journey through awe-inspiring landscapes

The new 45 km Pike29 Memorial Track will be an amazing journey by foot or mountain bike through diverse awe-inspiring environments.

The dual-use track will cross the Paparoa Range between Blackball and Punakaiki and will link with the Pike River Mine site by an 8 km side track.

It will be a 2–3 day walk or an advanced-level 1–2 day mountain bike ride. The track will be open all year for mountain biking. Two new high standard huts will be built on the Moonlight tops and above the junction with Tindale Creek.

The new Great Walk begins at its Blackball end on the existing Croesus Track, an old miners' track with remnants of the area's gold mining history. A short way off the main track at Garden Gully, an old quartz crushing battery can be seen and a miners' hut reveals what life was like for the miners.

The track route goes through rich beech and podocarp forest and over open tops of alpine scrub and tussock.

---

**Photos (clockwise from top):** Garden Gully Battery, *Baptiste Maryns*. Open ridgeline of the Paparoa Range, *Zac Shaw*. Walkers on the Pororari River Track, *Baptiste Maryns*. Stone steps on the Pororari River Track, *Baptiste Maryns*. Whio/blue duck in the area around Croesus Track, *Baptiste Maryns*. Ces Clarke hut on Croesus Track, *Shane Hall*.





Duration: **2–3 days**  
Distance: **45 km (one way)**



Duration: **1–2 days**  
Difficulty: **Advanced/Grade 4**

It will provide breathtaking views to the Southern Alps /Kā Tiritiri o te Moana and over the Tasman Sea and passes towering escarpments alongside the Pike basin before descending to the west off the Paparoa Range.

Nearing Punakaiki, the track passes through beech forest interspersed with northern rātā, dramatic limestone terrain including the striking Pororari River Gorge, and coastal forest with glades of nīkau palms.

The track will traverse areas inhabited by remnant populations of threatened species including roroa/great spotted kiwi, kea, kākā, whio/blue duck, mātā/fernbird and koekoeā/long-tailed cuckoo. The park is also home to the Paparoa Range alpine snail (*Powelliphanta gagei*).

It is aimed for this new Great Walk to open at the end of 2018. Provision is first required for it in a review of the Paparoa National Park Management Plan. The new track and huts in the park would then be constructed.

## A new West Coast tourism opportunity

New Zealand's Great Walks are premier tracks that draw thousands of international and New Zealand visitors.

The Pike29 Memorial Track provides a new recreation and economic opportunity for the West Coast. The Great Walk will attract international and domestic tourists wanting to experience the stunning and unique landscapes accessed by the track.

As a new mountain bike track it adds to a growing number of outstanding West Coast cycle trails that increasingly make the region a must-do mountain biking destination.

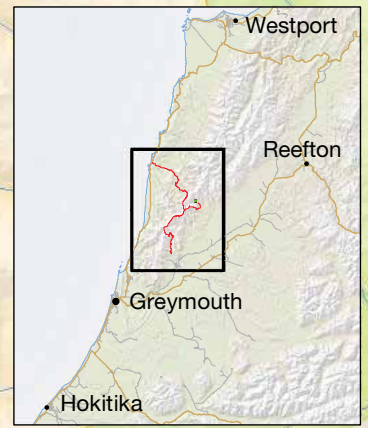
## Remembering the Pike 29

At the families' wishes, the Pike River Mine site and surrounding area become part of Paparoa National Park, protecting the resting place of the 29 men who died.

The men will also be remembered through an information centre to be developed at the Pike River Mine amenities area, where displays and memorabilia will tell the story of the mine and disaster.

The mine portal will be a place for quiet reflection of the 29 lives lost in the mine tragedy.





Punakaiki  
Dolomite Point  
Pancake Rocks

Paparaoa National Park









Barrytown

Ventilation shaft

Mine portal

Amenities area

### Planned Pike29 Memorial Track

-  Planned Pike29 Memorial Track
-  Existing DOC hut
-  Proposed hut
-  Existing track
-  Existing route
-  Paparaoa National Park
-  Addition to Paparaoa National Park
-  Public conservation land



NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator  
Prepared: 29/10/2015 by Geospatial Services, DOC

Front cover: Limestone cliffs and nīkau palms in the Pororari River Gorge. Photo: Baptiste Maryns

Published by: Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143, New Zealand | November 2015