

# Waitakere Ranges And Muriwai Regional Parks

## Filming Activities

1<sup>st</sup> December 2004

### Filming Activity in The Waitakere Ranges and Muriwai Regional Parks

#### Introduction

The Waitakere Ranges Regional Park forms a wilderness buffer zone between the cities of Auckland and the Tasman Sea. It covers a broken area of over 17 000 hectares from the northern coastline of the Manukau harbour to Muriwai and provides the Auckland Region with a number of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the Auckland Region which include:

Swimming, surfing, caving, canyoning, tramping, fishing, boating, mountain biking, horse riding, running, walking, picnicking, sightseeing, relaxing, camping, education programmes, organised activities and windsurfing.

It contains 250 kilometres of walking and tramping tracks providing access to its many natural features, waterfalls, beaches, streams and wildlife.

Though it may seem like the film location with everything several things need to be considered when considering filming in the Waitakere Ranges or Muriwai Regional Parks.

#### Filming in Waitakere and Muriwai Regional Parks

The Waitakere Ranges and Muriwai Regional parks are part of Auckland's regional park network. Regional parks complement the recreation-based parks provided by territorial authorities and the conservation focus of Department of Conservation estate.

Regional parks filming applications assessed against recreation and conservation values and other key criteria outlined by the Regional Parks Management Plan (v2004). Not all filming activities will be appropriate and

some will be subject to strict conditions to mitigate impacts and displacement.

The ARC welcomes appropriate filming activity and will ensure that whenever possible all assistance is given to ensure that an applicant is able to lodge a successful application.

**Note:** Applicants must be advised that no filming applications have right of approval. Filming is classified as a discretionary use activity by the *Regional Parks Management Plan 2004 (RPMP)*. All applications are required to use the *Permit Application for Filming* and be assessed as per section 39.4 of the RPMP.

## Regional Parkland - Filming Charges

The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) has a scale of charges for commercial and community activities that occur on Regional Parkland:

*'Where the activity provides any form of gain or reward to an organisation or individual above that which is received by a member of the general public who participates or is involved in the same or similar activity'.*

There are three types of filming that occur on regional parkland.

- Commercial
- Educational
- Public Funded/Community

The 2004 Recreation Pricing Schedule allows for an increase in the charges applied to filming activity. This applies from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2004. All applications for filming on Auckland regional parks after this date are assessed against key values and outcomes to determine the fee level applied.

For more information about filming activity and filming please see the ARC filming fact sheet.

Phone the ARC contact centre on (09) 366 2000 option 2 or view them at [www.arc.govt.nz/arc/auckland-regional-parks/activities/filming.cfm](http://www.arc.govt.nz/arc/auckland-regional-parks/activities/filming.cfm)

## Gaining Approval – Land

Though the Auckland Regional Council manages the Waitakere Ranges and Muriwai Regional Parks on behalf of Auckland there are also land holdings managed by Waitakere City Council, Rodney District Council, the Department of Conservation and many private landowners. The following provides a general overview.

It is a requirement that permission is granted by the appropriate landowner for all filming. If you are unsure of who manages or owns the land that you would like to film in please contact the Senior Ranger – Recreation/ Education (09) 817 0086

## **Cascade Kauri**

### **Brief Description**

Excellent examples of large kauri, some are hundreds of years old. Adjacent expansive picnic areas allow visitors to relax beside the Waitakere Stream.

### **Management Issues**

The local golf club leases land from the Regional Council. If you wish to use land that is obviously going to impact on the golf course, you will need to approach them.

### **On Site**

There is a large car park, which allows for the parking of several large trucks, cars, and vans. There is a large flat area where marquees can be erected.

### **Other Locations**

Cascade Kauri allows access through to the Auckland City Walk where advertisements, feature films (*'What Became of the Broken Hearted'*), and documentaries have been shot. This location allows for access to some of the remote interior of the park.

Pae O Te Rangi is a farm block to the west of Cascade. The Auckland Regional Council manages this. Magnificent views of the west coast and Waitakere ranges can be gained from the highest points on the farm.

## **Bethells (Te Henga)**

### **Brief Description**

Waitakere City Council manages this area to the south of the Waitakere Stream, and Rodney District Council to the north. The wetland area to the north of Bethells Road and Goldies Bush are managed by the Department of Conservation.

### **On Site**

There is a large car park, which allows for the parking of several large trucks, cars, and vans. There is a large flat area where marquees can be erected.

### **Other Locations**

To the north of Bethells is O'Neill Bay. Rodney District Council manages this beautiful bay.

## **Piha**

### **Brief Description**

Piha is divided into several areas:

- The area from South Piha to Karekare is a mixture of ARC managed land and freehold land.

- Waitakere City Council manages the beach frontage from South Piha to Lion Rock.
- The ARC manages Lion Rock.
- Waitakere City Council manages the beach frontage from Lion Rock to Monkey Rock.
- The ARC manages the land to the north of Monkey Rock.
- The ARC manages the reserves and park area on Glen Esk Road, and along Log Race Road off Te Ahu Ahu Road.

### **On Site**

There are large car parks at either end of the beach. Access to the beach can be gained opposite both surf life saving clubs. Several advertisements, and documentaries have been shot from this location.

### **Other Locations**

Lion Rock has several restrictions applying to it exclude access to the summit. Glen Esk Valley has a superb waterfall and abundant bush scenes that have been used a number of times in television and feature films.

### **Karekare**

#### **Brief Description**

Our most 'famous' film location, featuring in local, national and international feature films with views of headlands, sea, bush and waterfalls.

#### **Issues**

If the location is not managed well the local community will contact the ARC and ask for immediate remedies. This situation can occur at any location if courtesy and commonsense are ignored.

### **On Site**

There is a large car park, which allows for the parking of several large trucks, cars, and vans. There is a large flat area where marquees can be erected.

### **Other Locations**

Access to the northern end of the Whatipu wilderness area can be gained around the southern headland. Access here is not readily available and a strict conservation plan needs to be developed in conjunction with the ARC and DOC before access is permitted.

### **Whatipu**

#### **Brief Description**

The beach area at Whatipu is several kilometres long. The area directly north of the Whatipu car park to Karekare has been designated a wilderness area. Shots of black sand, sedges, lagoons, wildlife, and seascape can be safely produced. There is a historic lodge and several; other buildings at the Whatipu Camp ground

### **On Site**

There is a large car park, which allows for the parking of several trucks, cars, and vans. There is a large flat area where marquees can be erected.

### **Huia**

#### **Brief Description**

The Karamatura Valley is located in Huia Bay. Several films have been shot here with advertisements shot on the water and in the catchment area.

### **On Site**

There is a large car park, which allows for the parking of several large trucks, cars, and vans. There is a large flat area where marquees can be erected.

### **Cornwallis**

#### **Brief description**

Part of Cornwallis Peninsula with beach scenery, a renovated wharf (150 metres), Puponga point, and views to the Manukau heads

### **On Site**

There is a large car park, which allows for the parking of several large trucks, cars, and vans. There is a large flat area where marquees can be erected.

### **Arataki**

#### **Brief Description**

A major visitor centre exists on site. Small crews would be welcome in the area but the emphasis is on park visitors. Views of the Manukau and Waitemata Harbours can be gained from the decks.

### **On Site**

There is a large car park, which allows for the parking of several large trucks, cars, and vans. There is a large flat area where marquees can be erected.

### **Interior – Waitakere Ranges**

#### **Brief Description**

The interior of the Waitakere Ranges has several roads that can take film crews to a variety of locations. These can be discussed in a more specific way on application. All water catchment areas in the Waitakere Ranges require approval for use from Watercare Services.

Watercare Services administer the surfaces of the following lakes and their access roads.

- Waitakere Reservoir

- Lower Nihotupu Reservoir
- Upper Nihotupu Reservoir
- Lower Huia Reservoir
- Upper Huia Reservoir

### **Muriwai Regional Park**

#### **Brief Description**

Muriwai has several notable filming locations including the gannet colony and the long wide expanses of beach. It also has a mixture of private and public land. Filming often requires community notification and/or consultation.

- North of Flat Rock, Rodney District Council administers the beach up to the high tide mark.
- All roadside reserve land requires approval from Rodney District Council.
- All use of Regional Parkland including but not limited to the gannet colony at Otakamiro Point, the campground, Maori Bay, the horse park and the area known as Five Mile Strip require approval from the Auckland Regional Council.
- Use of most plantation forest requires approval from Carter Holt Harvey.