Redwoods Walk
Hot-Tub Experience

March 12, 2023

Tokorangi Pā Track

Whakarewarewa Forest – Rotorua, NZ

Walking track classifications and track types

Choose a track that suits your fitness level and the experience you're after.
Times are estimated at an easy going walking pace.

Well formed track, suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Suitable for prams and wheelchairs in dry conditions.

Mokopuna Trail	1hr	3.6 km
Redwood Memorial Grove Walk	30min	2 km
Waitawa Walk	1hr	3.4km

Extended walk suitable for relatively inexperienced people with low level of backcountry skill. Some fitness required.

Quarry Track	1hr 30min	4.8 km
Pohaturoa Track	2hrs	7.5km
Tokorangi Pa Track	3hrs 30min	11.5km

WALKING TRACKS

Trails built and managed by Rotorua Trails Trust
Join and donate

ROTORUA TRAILS TRUST

Key

- Parking
- Bus stop
- Information
- Toilets
- Tap water
- Geothermal feature
- Lookout
- Picnic area
- Map sign board
- Onsite bike hire
- Structure
- Picnic Area
- Highway
- Sealed road
- Metal road
- Dual use
- Biking only tracks
- Horse only tracks
- Carpark - Redwoods Rotorua
- Carpark - Mountain Biking

Forest Care Code

The Whakarewarewa Forest is primarily a productive plantation forest where all facets of the forestry management cycle can be seen from time to time. However the forest is also a place where people can enjoy and explore the forest environment through various recreational activities. So that everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience, please respect the code below:

- There are tracks specifically designed just for walkers, for bikers and for horses. Keep to your dedicated tracks.
- Forestry roads are multi-use. Beware of forestry vehicles using the roads.
- Keep left unless passing. Slow down and communicate when passing others.
- Obey all forestry signage. Tracks and roads may be closed or diverted at any time for maintenance, forestry operations or safety reasons.
- NEVER light fires.
- Remove rubbish and keep streams and lakes clean.
- Protect plants and animals.
- Respect our cultural heritage.

Important Information

- First Aid is available from The Redwoods I-SITE Visitor Information Centre on Long Mile Rd, contact + 64 7 3500110 or from Mountain Bike Rotorua on Waipa State Mill Rd contact + 64 7 3484295 or 0800 682 768.
- The emergency telephone number in New Zealand is: 111. This can be dialled free from any phone.
- Main access gates to the car parks are open: 5.30am to 8.30pm at the entry to The Redwoods on Long Mile Rd. 6.00am to 8.30pm at the entry to the Rotorua Mountain Bike carpark on Waipa State Mill Rd.
- There is no vehicle access into the forest for the general public.
- Please read signs located at main access points and within the forest for additional information and safety notices.

Dial 111 in an emergency

the Redwoods
WHAKAREWAREWA FOREST
www.redwoods.co.nz
Find us on Facebook

Want to know more detailed information about the forest and walking tracks - like history, flora & fauna, track descriptions? You'll find everything you need to know at www.redwoods.co.nz

cheal

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

(Source: http//www.redwoods.co.nz/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Whakarewarewa-walking-trail-map.pdf)

Marking with purple arrows, Tokorangi Pā Loop is a relaxing track nested in a lovely redwood forest setting in south of Rotorua City. Starting at the Redwoods Isite Visitor Information Center, follows the Longmile Road to the entrance of the track. The track starts here with winding through woodland. Turning right as shown by the arrow sign, the track begins gently upslope and further on wooden stairway that climbs more heights. Over the uphill course, there are cut pieces of large fallen trees and topless tall fern trunks. This reveals how terrible the weather in the area can be and the kind of natural selection and vegetative wear and tear thus enforces. Near the top, there is an expanded view of Mt Ngongotaha, Rotorua City, Lake Rotorua (Te Rotorua nui ā Kahumatamomoe, site of Rotorua Caldera), and Mokoia Island. The track is now rather sandy and muddy, somewhat uneven. This Tokorangi Pā Road can be muddy during wet season so take care for safety sake.

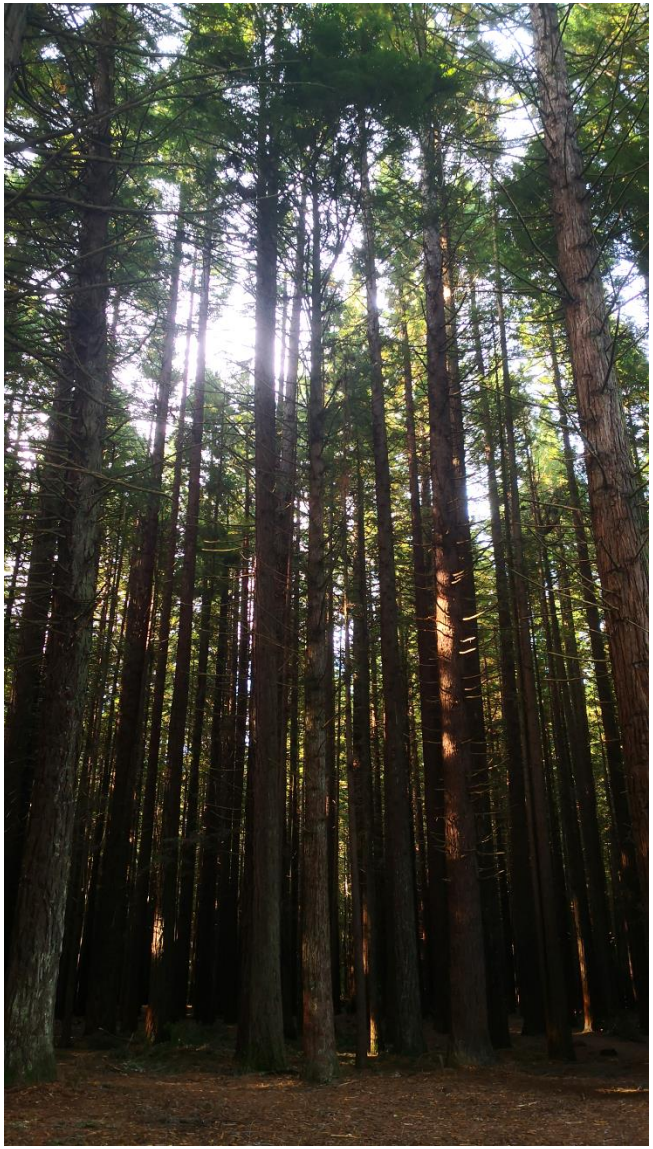
Up to the top, there is a bifurcation to Tokorangi Pā Lookout Horse Trail. Turning left is the route to both Tokorangi Pā Track and Whakarewarewa Circuit. Then onward is predominantly a downhill move which can be very steep and sandy, from Pipeline Road, Wash Road and then to Katore Road. Winding downhill and through bushes, there comes a wooden bridge that crosses over a small stream. At the junction to Katore Road, there are two tanks for land treatment. Over quite long sections of the downward track are on dual use for both walkers and bikers, watch out for the traffic carefully is important. The exit to the track emerges into Nursery Road, up north to Longmile Road and back to Isite.

Distance: 11.5 km (3 hr 30 min); Difficulty: Grade 2 (easy-medium)

This's the break of another daylight.
Nice colour on a clear dawn.
Out in the wild, back to civilization, there is a connection to Maori legend, the matter of longevity and persistence.
Outreaching to the heartland of Maori culture in Rotorua, our two vans depart Hamilton City at 7:30 am sharp.

Arriving Redwoods Memorial Groves, the heart of Tokorangi and Whakarewarewa forests, is predominately populated by California Coast Redwoods.

Out of the 170 different tree species trial planted in 1990s (most died away), this redwood thrives freely over time with the tallest reaching over 67 meters.



Situated south of Rotorua, what a forest can be with soaring growth… a matter of…with 30 years' of continuous progression.

Sun is getting bright. Morning fresh is so appealing clear in this redwood forest but a bit chilly.

Straight right up in a harmonic consortium, not having any sort of deviation, still with budding green on top…

So tall, much much taller than us…

This's the kind of persistence on a different environment, the New Zealand North Island Hot Spot Rotorua. "Roto" means "lake" and "rua" means "second". The "second lake" identified by renowned Te Arawa, people around Rotorua lakes.

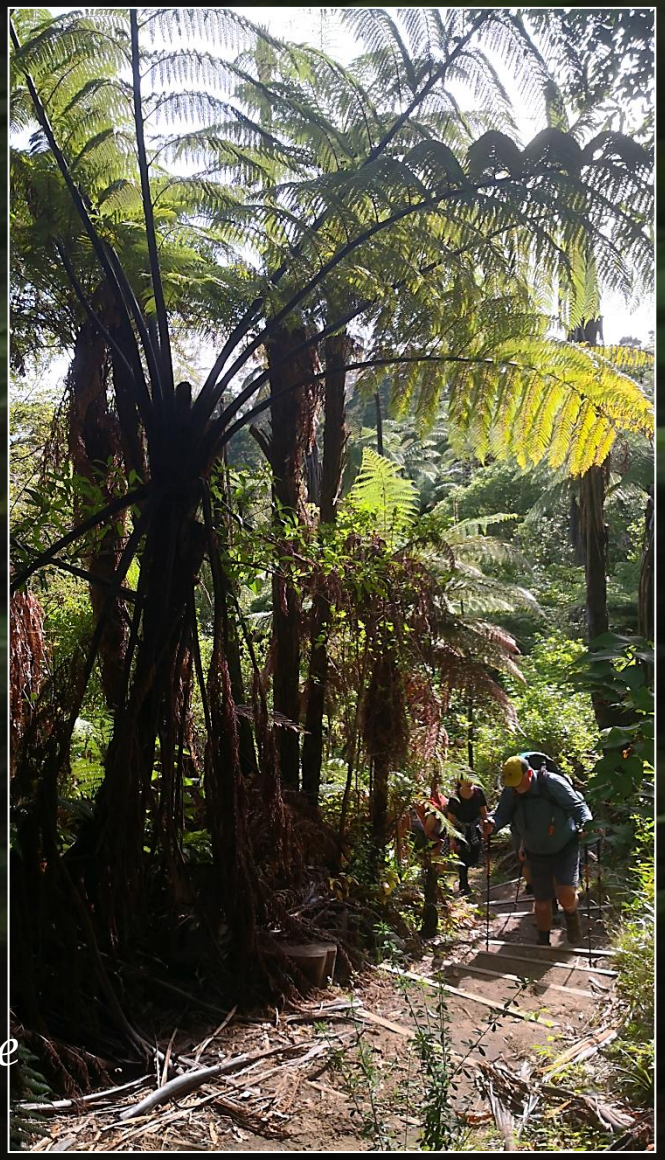
Not a difficult track, just take time for an early morning tea.
In two tables, one for Grade 1 and the other for Grade 2…

right in the bush, with open foliaged umbrellas...
hanging above, waving cheerfully on the canopy summit...
calling for glowing vividity...

Oh, where are the others? Taking too many shots…nearly missing them…Hei, here they are, Grade 2!

As seen from the signboard, follows
the purple arrow direction, we turn right up the slope.

Gently sloping upward, the track is rather an easy going one initially. The sun penetrates the canopy, leaving a bit of warm in the chilly morning forest.



The track gets steeper and steeper. Wooden stairs are installed to facilitate movement in the forest.

Sparely scattered with fragments of fallen trees…Clear cut faces are mossy covered with the decaying process going on as expected. There are quite a number of large cut fragments on exposed area. It is alarming to have such big girth falling down, probably upon with repeated adverse weather conditions spreading over the area. Much of the smaller twigs and trunks were removed, leaving the big one…

Over and over, there is much devastation and generation, leaving behind are the topless fern trees (without foliage) in view and much proliferation around. It's warmer as the day progress…Yeah, it's getting cooler with autumn creeping around.

Up on the open slope, we can see Mt Ngongotaha rising above Rotorua City with Rotorua Caldera filled with water to form Lake Rotorua (Te Rotorua nui ā Kahumatamomoe).
The sacred Mokoia Island, nested in the lake on the right, comes with pacific stance, and is coloured with mythical Maori romance…

Empty space filled with empty trunk,
a bit nude, somewhat desolate, there is a persisting uncertainty
that arouses for more unrest.

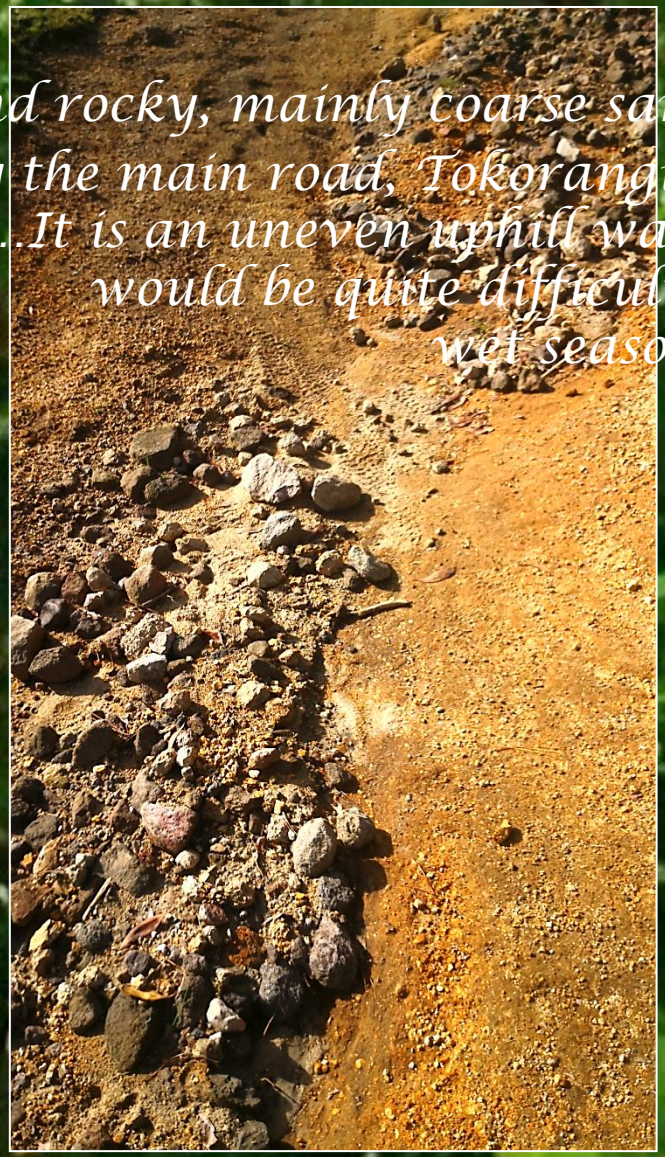
In such a terrific moment, indetermination dominates.
Over the bluish cirrus sky, there is some kind of dictated power
that rules over…somewhat overwhelming…

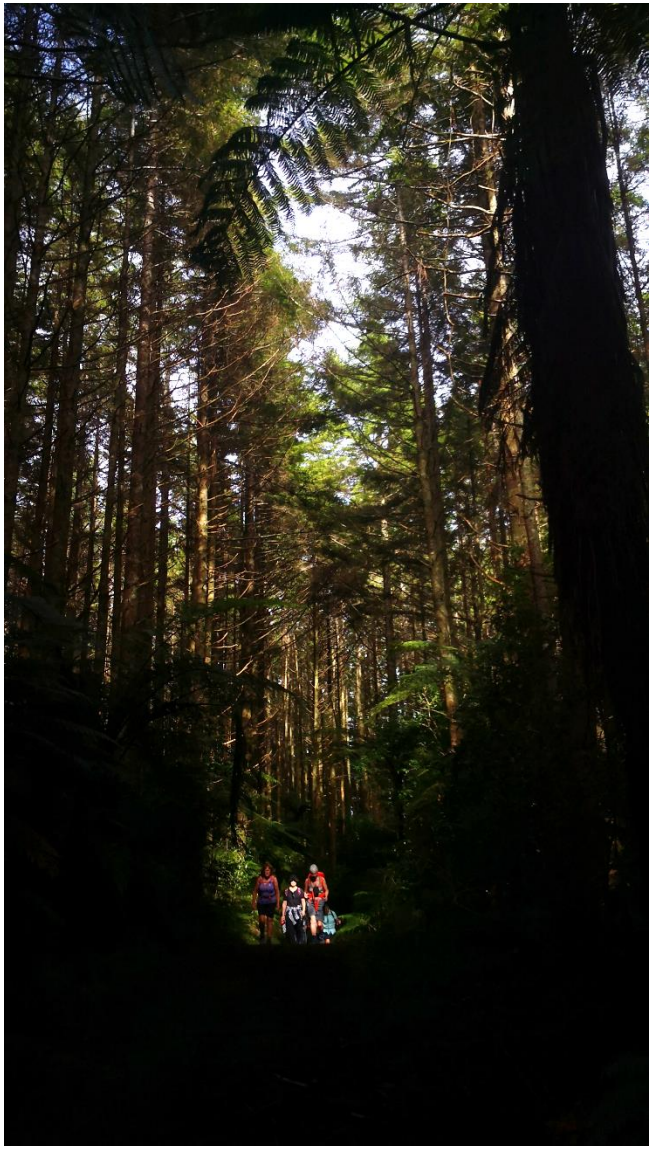
Under the foliage, there is something special…different in colour…ruby, scarlet red…?

A weed in New Zealand but not so in overseas. Pretty pinkish colour…

Muddy can be with all these fine sand and mud cover …can be challenging in a rainy day, especially on this exposed slope…

Sandy and rocky, mainly coarse sand.. Along the main road, Tokorangi Pā Road…It is an uneven uphill way… would be quite difficult in wet season…





Down there in the sun,
we are heading upward, to the
Tokorangi Pā.

As we rise from the low lying area,
there is a replacement of redwoods by
other foliage, mainly pines and ferns.

Soaring high in the blue,
so impressive and dense…
Walking up the greenery aisle is quite
an experience…
the kind of growth and development…
perseverance and determination…

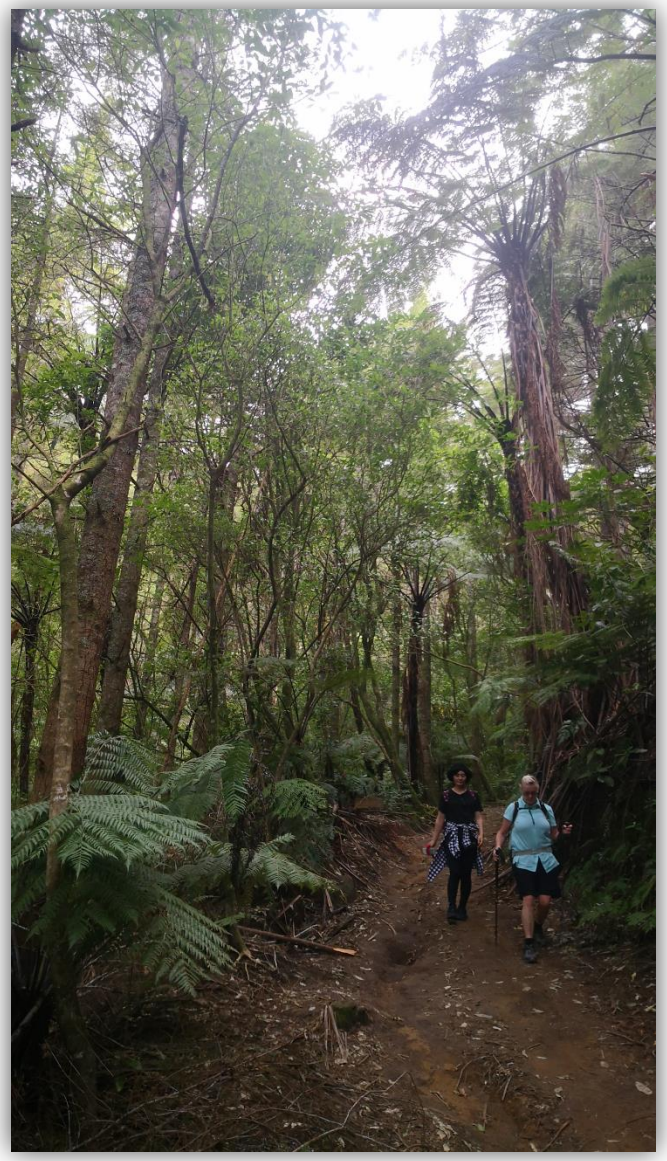
Coming with sort of thoughtfulness,
it is pleasant to stroll along
the steep slope…

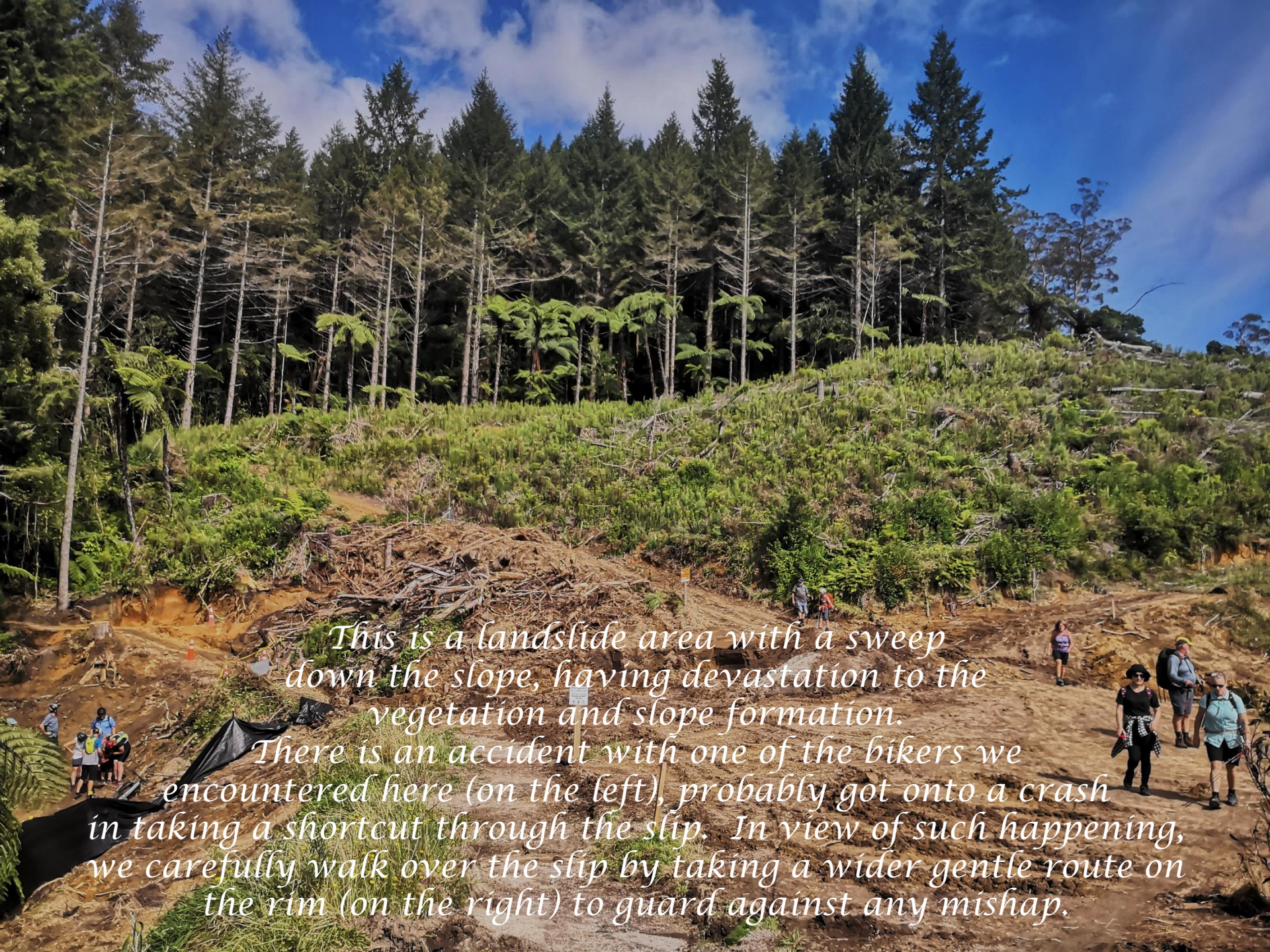
Here is the pā, at the hill top? Not sure? Further the way or just here… Trees grown so high up, nothing can be identified for an Mori pā (the prominent flat fortified settlement top) by a layman. Probably with the all around vegetative growth over time, it is not that easy to recognize the kind of dimensional differentiation.

At the top, there is a two-way bifurcation: Left one to Tokorangi Pā Track and Whakarewarewa Circuit, and the right one to Tokorangi Pā Lookout Horse Trail. Since we are not sure where Tokorangi Pā is, we proceed to the latter trail to have a look at the Pā.

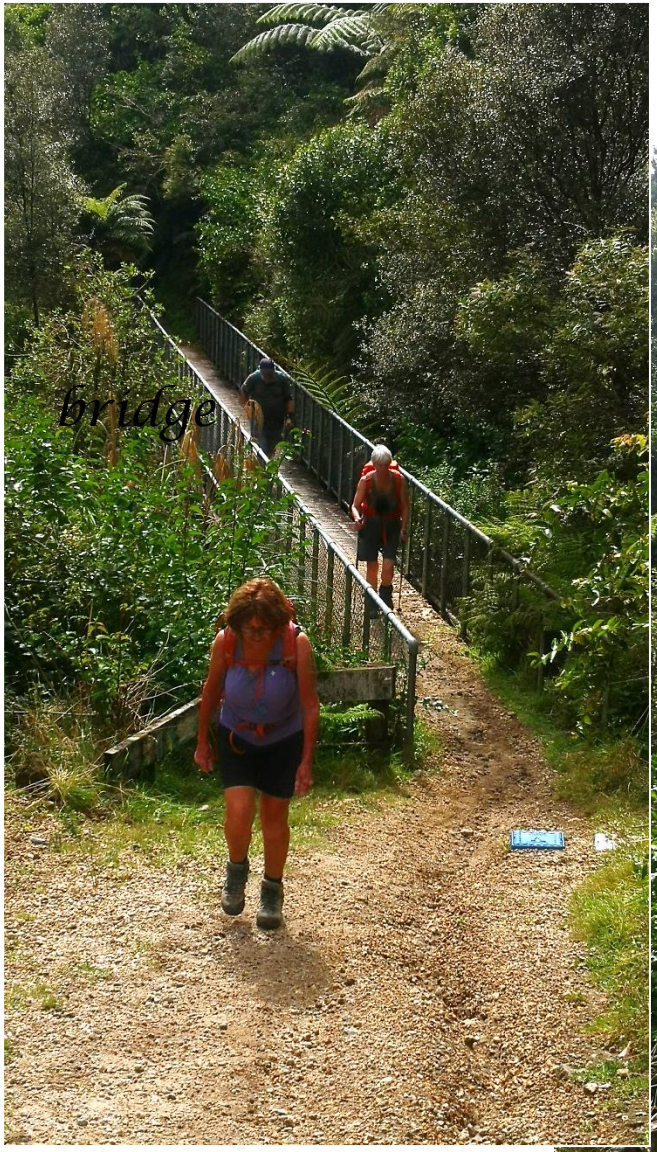
Downslope the way, a biker family passes by…It is convincing that we are on the wrong way upon enquiry and double-checking with the father. Turning back to the top, not able to identify where the Pā is, we continue to the left to rejoin Tokorangi Pā Track.

The downhill track is mostly a downward one. Initially with bush walk and then to open area, following by bush walk again…





This is a landslide area with a sweep down the slope, having devastation to the vegetation and slope formation.
There is an accident with one of the bikers we encountered here (on the left), probably got onto a crash in taking a shortcut through the slip. In view of such happening, we carefully walk over the slip by taking a wider gentle route on the rim (on the right) to guard against any mishap.

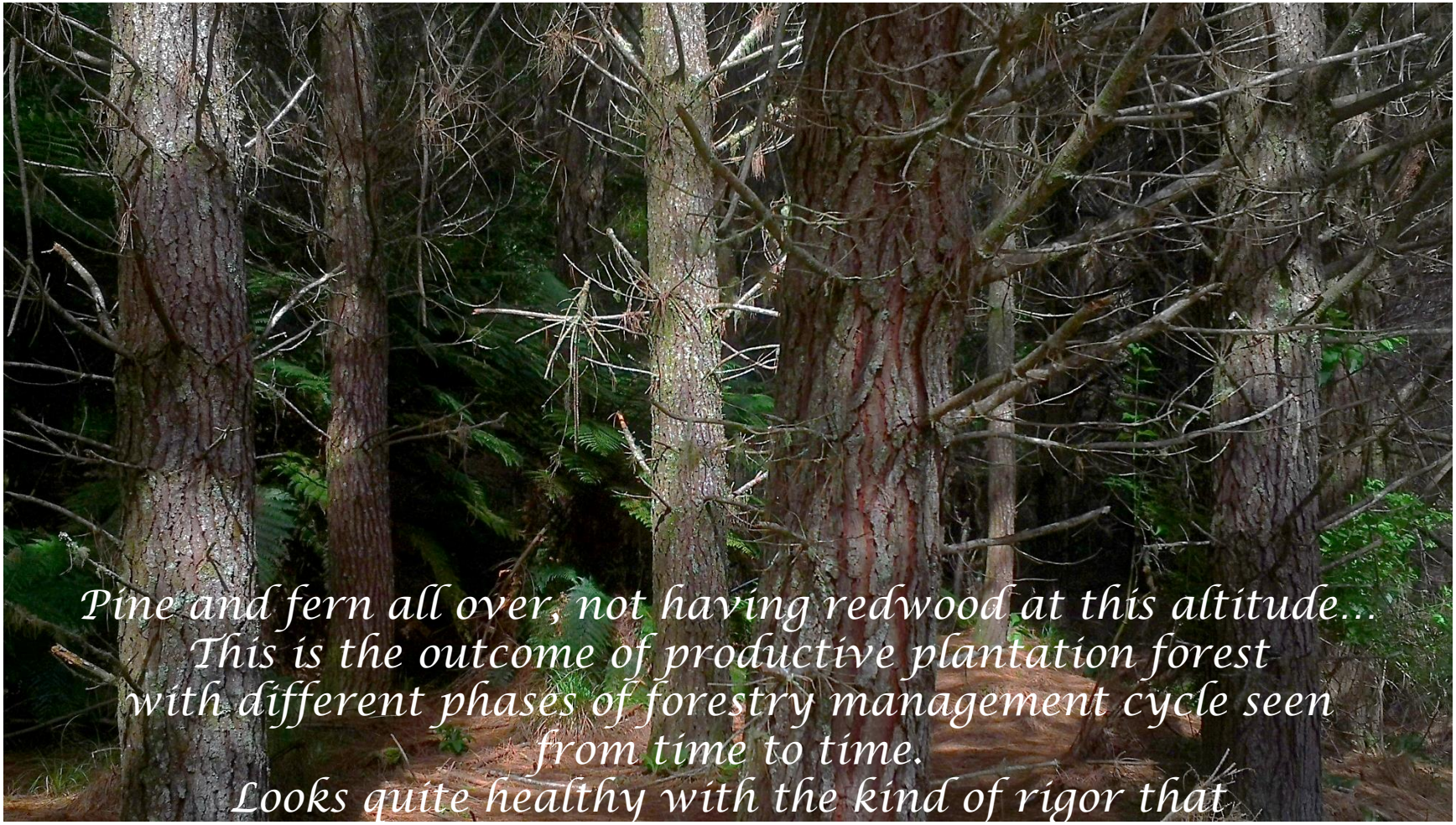


bridge

Further down, from Pipeline Road, Wash Road and then to Katore Road, the sloping track can be quite steep. Over the way, there is alternating entry and exit to the bush. Crossing a over a stream, a slight rise on the track is needed...

Emerging from the bush, the track touches on a sandy road. At the junction to Katore Road, there are two tanks for land treatment. Around here, the track are rather expose and level... The sun seems hotter in this time of the day... The track further goes downslope, pretty steep, meeting a road junction where we have an early lunch at 11:45am...

Here is the place for lunch. Hei, who is behind this big tree trunk? Got any idea…After lunch, we head down across the junction and enter the bush…

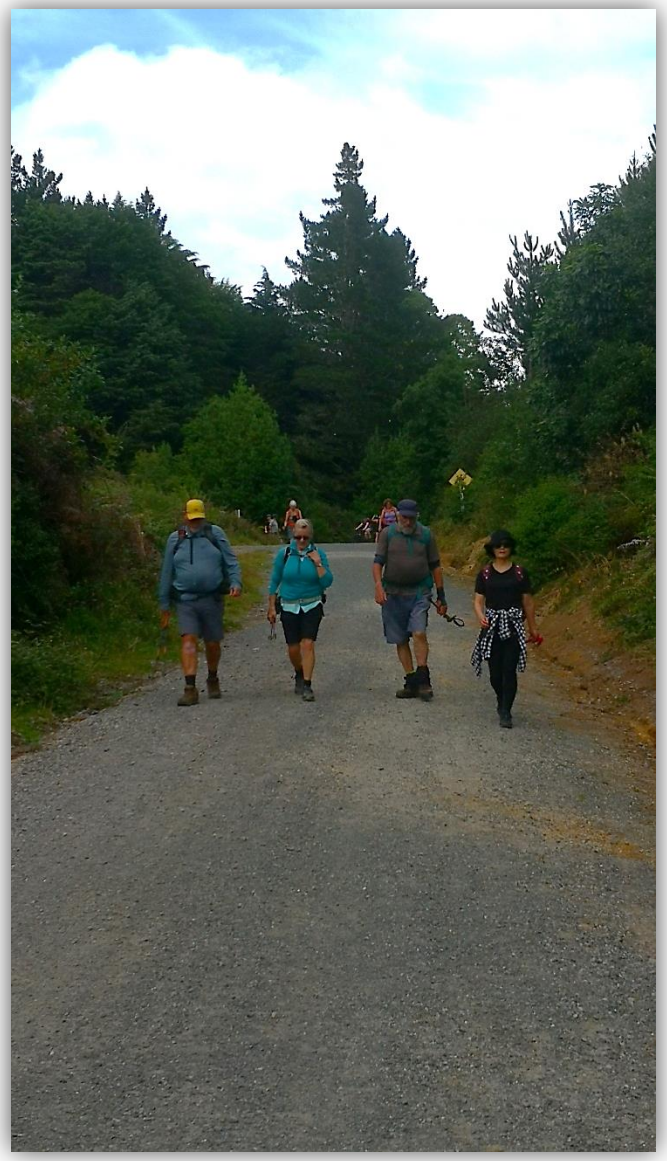


Pine and fern all over, not having redwood at this altitude...
This is the outcome of productive plantation forest
with different phases of forestry management cycle seen
from time to time.
Looks quite healthy with the kind of rigor that
budding all the way up, higher and higher.
Branching is not a matter but just straighten out
would be desirable.

It's quite monotonous for the later part of the track. Lining with ordinary pine and other vegetative bush, the scenery is not that appealing.

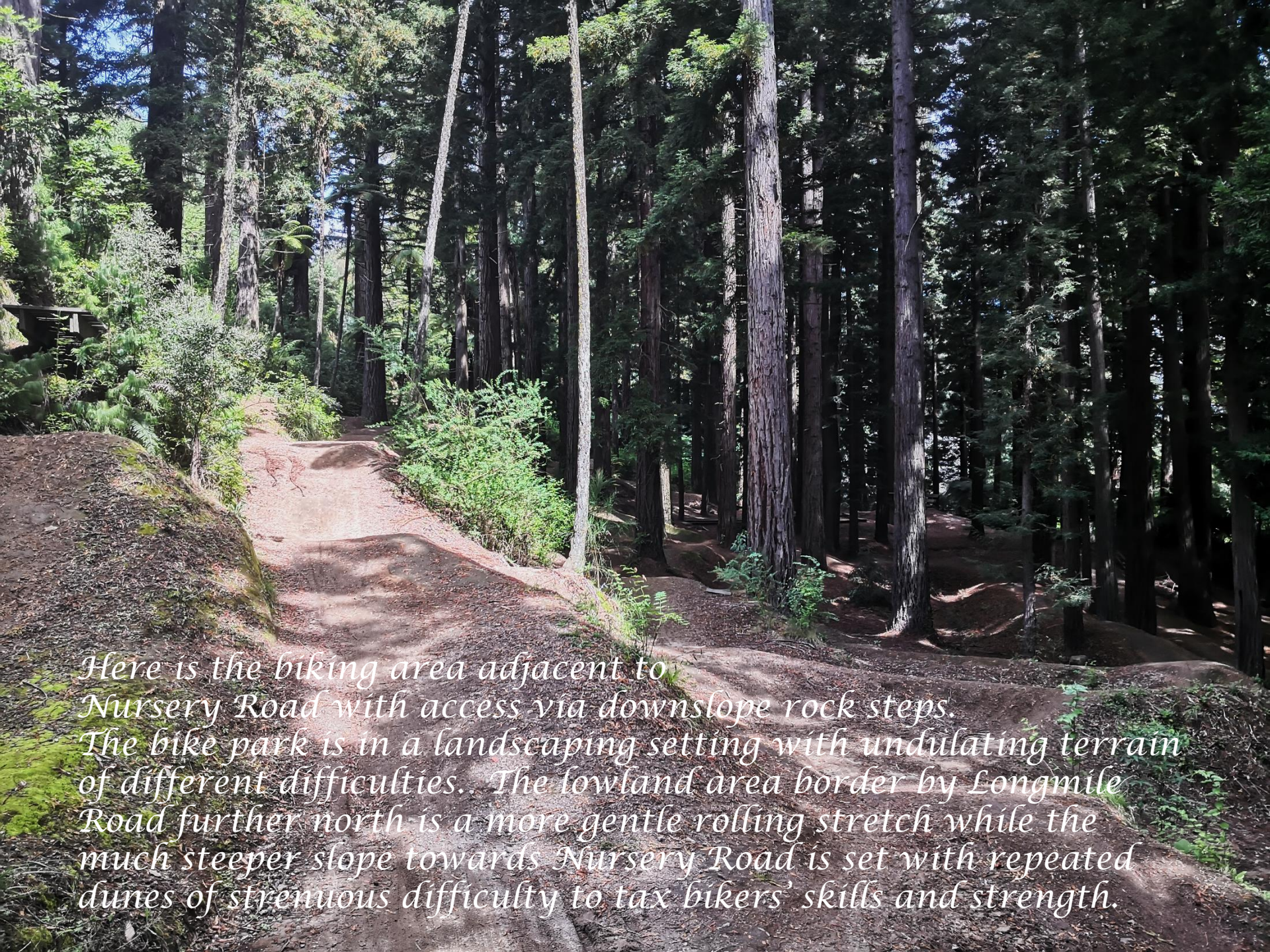
The track gets flatter and flatter. Not much skill required but just persistence in simple walking…

From Katore Road, the track ends up at the junction to Ratio Hut Road and Nursery Road.



Another busy junction point from Katore Road, we turn into Nursery Road, hitting the final go for today's track.

From time to time, meeting bikers is usual on this busy Sunday on the downhill part. Keep alert on the bike traffic is the rule.



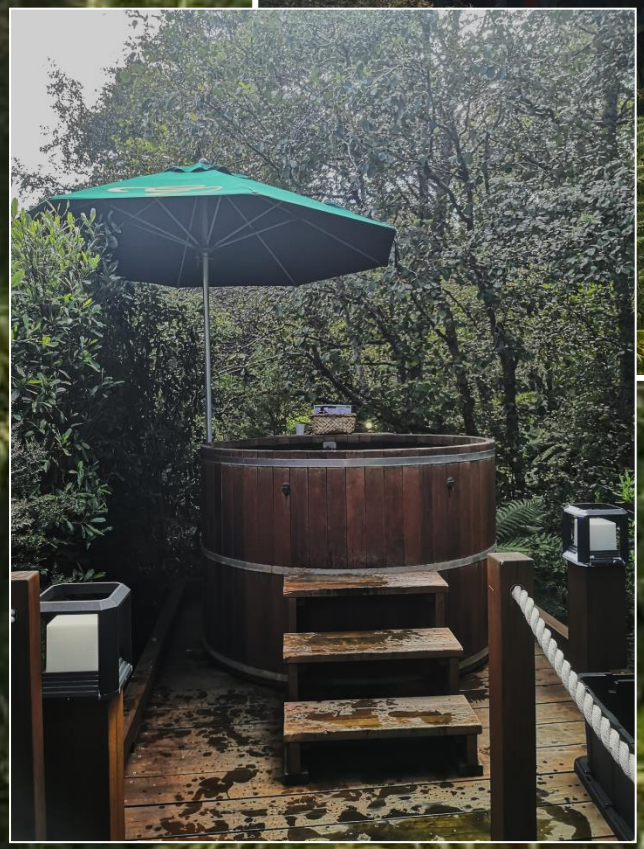
Here is the biking area adjacent to Nursery Road with access via downslope rock steps. The bike park is in a landscaping setting with undulating terrain of different difficulties.. The lowland area border by Longmile Road further north is a more gentle rolling stretch while the much steeper slope towards Nursery Road is set with repeated dunes of strenuous difficulty to tax bikers' skills and strength.

Comes again the flourishing redwood forest, still with the mighty physique in shaping a near natural environment for an enjoyable experience (and recreational too). Long last the woodland and the living space in our surroundings.

Secret Spot Hot Tubs Rotorua is right in front of us.
An immersion in the mini-cedar Shinny Dip Hot Tub can be a relaxing move after the walk. It's a complementary offer for any drinks purchase in the cafe. It's lucky for not having too many customers and we have the choice of Shinny Dip Tubs we like.

Designing in a natural setting, Secret Spot is a hotspot in Rotorua, overlooking the stunning Whakarewarewa Forest and Puarenga Stream. The steaming stream water runs through the area, giving a touch of Rotorua's geothermal rigor. Each of our Grade 2 has their favourite drink, Mocha is for me...

Set in a fernish vegetative surrounding, the fresh non-geothermal spring water (heated to 39.7 ˚C) in cedar hot tubs is sourced from aquifer spring high in the forest.



Hot water does not flow from tub to tub and is individually filtered and refreshed continuously during the soak.

Meeting NZ Pool Water Quality Standards with Enviroswim treatment system, the mineral water has minimal chemicals and is friendly to both bathers and the environment.

Another go of mouthful ice-cream at One Road Ice Cream, it is desirable to have a second treat after the coffee at Hot Tubs.

Oh, the Grade 1 is coming too…We have a full load of today's hikers…have to line up to get a scope…

Honey and fig is my choice for today…

Sitting at ease or just hanging around, whatever you like…have a taste of the well-known seasonal ice-cream is superb in the pleasant afternoon sun…

…but bear in mind, have to eat it fast for not wasting any drip.

Across the road, the Big Dog is watching. At the Tirau Isite Visitor Information Centre, there are sheep flock around too! How's that?

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