

Walk of the Month

Welcome to 10,000 Steps Northland's Walk of the Month. Each month a stunning walk somewhere in Northland will be highlighted so watch this space for your next walking adventure. (If you have a favourite track or walk in your community contact us on email at 10000steps@sportnorth.co.nz).

March's Walk of the Month . Whangarei Museum and Kiwi House at Heritage Park (Whangarei)

This month's article features the beautiful walkways and buildings of Whangarei's Museum and Kiwi House at Heritage Park. Driving 2.5 kilometres west towards Dargaville, along State Highway 14, you will find the location of Heritage Park on the right hand side of the road. There is plenty of parking at the site with public toilets and picnic tables handy. If you have not visited the Park and Museum before, there is plenty to keep your mind and body active.

Walking from the Kiwi House and carpark you can visit the old Clarke Homestead in **115 steps** or 90 metres. The Clarke Homestead dates back to the late 1800's and is now the home to several museum artefacts and treasures.



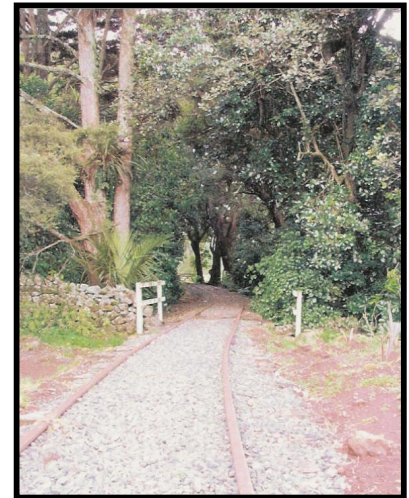
Entrance to Heritage Park

To stretch your legs out a little bit more, walk from the Kiwi House and Gecko House up towards the Museum and Native Bird Recovery buildings. Walking approximately **300 steps** (250 metres) to the Museum will only take a couple of minutes but is well worth it. For \$10.00 you can enter the Museum, Kiwi House and Gecko House and experience the past and present of Whangarei's inhabitants.

Crossing over the railway tracks to reach the museum might even tempt you to take a little ride. Just past the Museum is the Bird Recovery building and the Observatory at the top of the hill. A return trip from the observatory and back to the Kiwi House will have you stepping out a total of **950 steps** (760 metres).

For those with a bit more adventure in their bones, there is a couple of short bush walks at the end of the train tracks at the far end of the site. Walking from the Kiwi House down the road past the Vintage Car Club and Stationary Engine Club and over the railway tracks, you will see a cemetery and the Clarke tombstone.

There is quite a lovely walk along a track that takes you through the forest and to the end of the rail line. This walk is very gentle and well marked with rock border. As a return trip this walk will have you stepping 940 steps (750 metres).



There is one more bush track that attaches to the gravel track and takes you down to a beautiful little creek and waterfall. This track is not ideal for the novice and/or unstable walker. The track is not well marked and is narrow and slippery in parts. For those of you that enjoy a bit of a challenge this track is fun, steep, pretty and short. As a round trip it is a total of 1160 steps (925 metres).

Get out there and enjoy the Whangarei Museum and Heritage Park today, there's something there to suit everyone's interests.

Active Lifestyles – Sandi Burleigh from Sport Northland, www.10000stepsnorthland.co.nz