



Bulls to Feilding

 Walking

Difficulty

Easy

Length

22 km

Journey Time

5 to 6 hours

Region

[Manawatu/Whanganui](#)

Sub-Regions

[Manawatū](#), [Rangitikei](#)

Part of Collections

[Te Araroa - New Zealand's Trail](#), [Te Araroa - North Island](#)

Haere mai ki te Manawatū.

This region of the trail, from Bulls to Levin, is 110km long and will take 4-5 days to complete. For through-hikers, you will pass the halfway mark and spend some time in the halfway city Palmerston North (Papaioea) for resupply. Other settlements where you will have opportunities to mix with the locals include Feilding, Bunnythorpe and finally Levin, a 10km side trip off the trail if you need to resupply for the remote Tararua Ranges.

The Manawatū section of the trail is well-marked throughout. Whilst it starts for southbound walkers with 24km of walking on quiet country roads, as your journey proceeds, you will increasingly be experiencing long stretches of bushwalking in the lower Tararua Ranges, finishing with two days (40km) of backcountry tramping trails.

Bulls to Mt Biggs School – 13km / 3 – 3.5 hour

- Leaving Bulls, heading south, follow the footpath beside State Highway 1 on the west side of the highway, crossing the bridge over the Rangitikei River.
- At the junction of Tangimoana Road, carefully cross State Highway 1 to Wightmans Road.
- From here, the route is well-marked on posts with Te Araroa logos and chevrons.
- Looking south on Wightmans Road gives a good view of the Tararua Range where you are heading after Palmerston North. Wind turbines can be seen north and south of the Manawatū Gorge. On your left are views of the Rangitikei River.
- Passing Ohakea Defence Base outbuildings, continue along Wightmans Rd until you reach the intersection with Hurst Rd.
- Turn right into Hurst Rd, then left onto Wilsons Rd after 1.5km.
- Follow Wilsons Rd, using the off-road path where available, for about 2km, then turn right into Ngaio Rd near the Ohakea Radar Station.
- After 2km you will arrive at Mt Lees Reserve on your right, where overnight camping is available. Toilets, water and kitchenette, outdoor seating.
- The 2.5km bushwalk around the reserve is a good side trip with some impressive specimen trees.
- From Mt Lees Reserve, follow the off-road path alongside Ngaio Rd, continue right onto Mt Stewart - Halcombe Road as far as Mt Biggs School

- Turn left into Sandon Road at Mt Biggs School

Mt Biggs School to Feilding - 9km / 2-3 hours

- Continue east along Sandon Rd for 5.5km to Ranfurly Rd. Warning: *Sandon Rd is a busy road with little shoulder. Take care.*
 - An alternative (slightly longer) route to the main trail is from the Lees Rd/Sandon Rd intersection. Follow Lees Rd to the Awahuri Rd intersection, turn right then after 1km, turn left into Kawakawa Rd. Enter Kitchener Park on your left, follow the boardwalk and walkway beside the Makino Stream and alongside Manfeild Racetrack, crossing Rimu St to the Kowhai Park exit to meet the trail on South St. This alternative is not marked with Te Araroa signage.
- Turn right off Sandon Rd into Ranfurly Rd, Feilding. The urban footpath network begins here.
- After 2km, turn right into West St then second left into South St.
- Continue along South St for about 200m
- At the roundabout on South St, a left turn into Kimbolton Rd takes you to Feilding town centre

Conditions

Potential hazards:

- Vehicles on road or track Take extreme care and walk as far off road as possible
- Track exposed to sun, wind or cold
- Few water sources

How to get here

Northern Start: Junction of High Street and SH3, Bulls

Southern End: Feilding clock tower, Kimbolton Road

Transport

Feilding

Buses leave from Feilding Railway Station, Aorangi St.

- Feilding / Palmerston North Connect Bus [Timetable](#) [↗](#)
- [InterCity](#) [↗](#)

Accommodation

Feilding

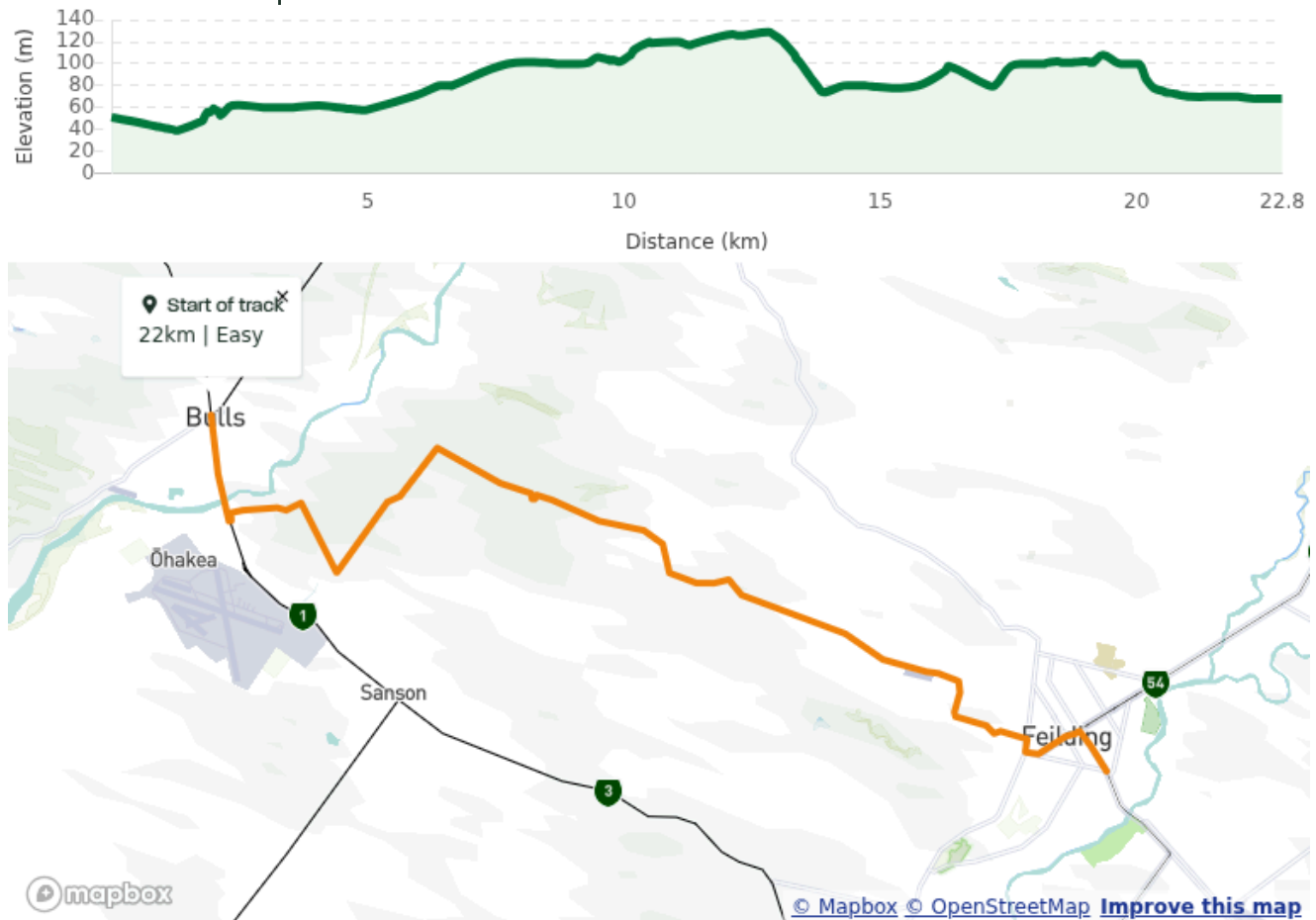
- Mt Lees Reserve - 199 Ngaio Road, RD 9, Feilding - The trail passes Mt Lees Reserve. Basic sheltered campsite with drinking water and toilets. (On the trail, 11km north of Feilding).
- Timona Park, Feilding – Campbell St entrance. TA hikers are able to camp in a designated area of Timona Park. This area is adjacent to the off-road carpark to the east of the toilet block on Timona Park Road, just in from the Campbell St entrance to the park.
- [Local accommodation businesses](#) [↗](#)

Food And Supply

Feilding

- New World Supermarket - 42 Aorangi Street St, Feilding
- Woolworths Supermarket - 147 Kimbolton Road, Feilding
- Bin Inn Feilding 85 Kimbolton Rd, Feilding
- Feilding Farmers' Market is held every Friday from 8:30am to 1:00pm near the Clock Tower

Track Elevation and Map



More information

Feilding

For information on Feilding [Feilding Visitor Information Centre](#) [↗](#)

- If walkers continue along South St, a left turn into Manchester St takes you to the Feilding Sale Yards – renowned as the largest sale yards for selling sheep in the southern hemisphere; they are worthy of a visit on a Friday (being “sale day”, when the country comes to town). Guided tours of Feilding Sale Yards are available on Fridays
- On the right side of South St is the Coach House Museum, with lots of interesting machinery and objects from bygone days. Worth a visit as it has toilet facilities and a place to sit down. Open from 10am till 4pm.
- Feilding Farmers' Market is held every Friday from 8:30am to 1:00pm near the Clock Tower

Before starting Te Araroa either as a through-walker of the whole country or a section walker, [please register on Te Araroa website](#) [↗](#). Please also [visit the website](#) [↗](#) or [download the app](#) [↗](#) for detailed maps, trail alerts and other relevant information.

This track is part of the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa track database. Herenga ā Nuku has [maps and advice about public access to the outdoors](#) [↗](#).

We encourage you to continue gaining the skills and knowledge required for a safe trip. The NZ Mountain Safety Council has lots of free resources and information you can use. These can be accessed via www.mountainsafety.org.nz [↗](#).

We recommend trying these online learning tools:

- [Trip Planning](#) [↗](#)
- [Tramping/field Skills](#) [↗](#)
- [Basic Navigation](#) [↗](#)
- [River Safety](#) [↗](#)

Additionally, check out the range of helpful videos available from the NZ Mountain Safety Council [YouTube channel](#) [↗](#).



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