

Section E: John Coull (92km) to Tieke (124km) (And notes, page 39)

Tangarakau River: A short distance downriver from Puketapu is the Tangarakau River mouth **R**. The river was named by Tamatea as the place where he cut timber to repair his canoes.

162 Mangatoatoa: Stream and boulders **L**. Shingle **R**. Two large shellrock boulders in the stream below.

Whangamomona River: R.

165 Te Auropae: Below the Whangamomona River there are extensive snag beds on both sides. These are caused by timber being washed out of the Tangarakau River and Whangamomona River during floods. The river was completely blocked at one time and a channel had to be blasted through. New snags may appear at any time. Take care.

Mangawaiiti Campsite: Mangawaiiti Stream enters in a deep ravine **R**. Just below the stream **R** is a shingle, log and mud landing with a track leading up the cliff to a small grassy flat. Toilets and water supply.

169 Whatakaka No. 2: Watch for the Otumangu Landing **L**. There is a small level rock platform with an iron stanchion in it, with a track leading back upstream and then doubling back in a downstream direction to the cliff top. At the bend the track has slipped away. There is a small metal plate fastened to the cliff at this level. Just past the landing the Otumangu Stream enters the Whanganui River through a deep ravine. The river then takes a sharp right-hand bend.

A line of pine trees **L** marks the site of a World War I soldiers' farm.

Mangapurua Landing: Near the peak of a northward loop is the former Mangapurua steamer landing **L**, a sloping papa ledge with short iron stakes set in it. The Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka track starts here and forty minutes walk from the landing crosses the "Bridge to Nowhere".

Mangapurua Campsite: R just below the landing on a sand bank. Toilets and water supply.

Mangapurua Stream: L Alternative access to the Mangapurua/Kaiwhakauka track (and to the "Bridge to Nowhere") begins here. Land on sand bank **L** in mouth of stream.

Just below the Mangapurua Stream the cleared tops of Tangahoe Farm become visible ahead.

177 Opopo: A little way below this rapid **L** is a mineral spring in the bank, staining the papa black. The spring is covered by high flows. Other small rapids appear over the next kilometre under varying conditions.

177A New Rapid: A slip during the 1991 winter has created this rapid. Take care.

178 Oparia: This is the place where the largest canoe ever built on the river, the great Tauwharepuru, said to have held 100 warriors, was lowered from the cliff-top by supplejack ropes.

Tangahoe Landing: R Private property. Track leads up landing to farm. Just past the landing, the Tangahoe Stream **R** offers spectacular scenery.

Mangatiti Stream and Landing: L, identified by the stout totara post in the bank on the upstream side of the stream mouth. The gorge opens out here.

Parinui Landing: R. Private property. This area has been farmed since the early years of this century. A school here taught the children of Parinui and Ramanui until 1940.

Ramanui Landing: R. Private property. 'Bridge to Nowhere Lodge' offers dinner, bed and breakfast for \$85/person, cabins \$10/person or camping, including water, bbq facilities, showers and toilets for \$5/person (025 480 308 or 06 348 7122hm/fax, bridge2nowhere-lodge@clear.net.nz).

Tieke Kainga: L At Tieke there is a kainga which offers hut and camping facilities. When Te Whanau o Tieke, the tangata whenua are at the kainga, visitors to the marae are asked to observe protocol. Visitors will participate in a Powhiri (welcome). They will be met on the riverbank where the powhiri will be explained. Accommodation is on a first-come, first-served basis. Food is normally cooked and shared together. The marae has been revived in agreement with the Department of Conservation and offers visitors a unique cultural experience. When Te Whanau o Tieke are not in residence at the kainga, visitors may use all facilities.

The eastern end of the Matemateonga Track is signposted **R** just below Tieke.

