

Please remember: Hukutaia Domain is an important botanical resource. Removal of plant material not permitted.

## Some treasures of Hukutaia

**Tecomanthe speciosa:** a rare climber from the Three Kings Islands.

**Pisonia brunoniana:** the bird catching tree, with its sticky seed capsules.

**Kaikomako:** the fire making tree, used by early Māori to generate fire.

**Mangeao:** one of the toughest woods, used for wheel spokes and swingle trees in the days of horse teams.

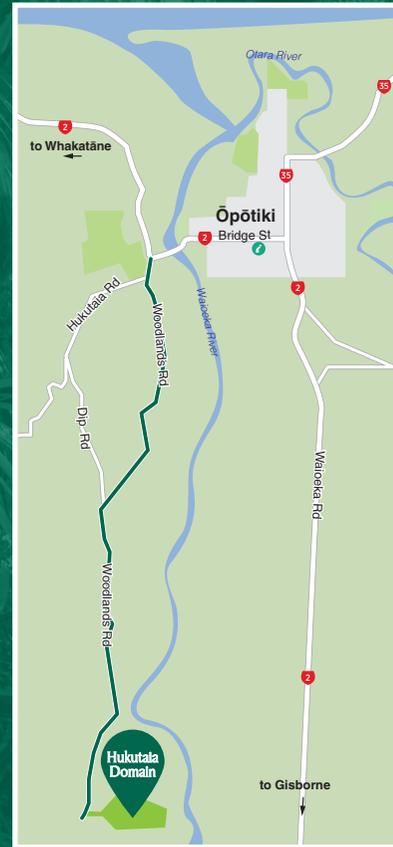
**King Ferns:** magnificent with their fronds up to 3 metres in length.

**Poor Knights Lily:** with brilliant flower heads throughout the summer.



## How to get there

Hukutaia Domain is located 8km from Ōpōtiki at 669 Woodlands Road.



For more information contact  
Hukutaia Domain Care Group  
c/- Ōpōtiki i-SITE  
70 Bridge Street, Ōpōtiki  
Phone 07 315 3031 [www.opotikin.z.com](http://www.opotikin.z.com)

# Hukutaia Domain

8km from Ōpōtiki on Woodlands Road



An extensive collection of native plants in a natural bush setting

Donations to help ongoing work at the Domain to Norman Potts Memorial Fund  
03 1546 0001851 00

## Hukutaia Domain Care Group

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Hukutaia Domain is 4.5 hectares of native bush remnant, featuring trees such as ancient pūriri and mighty tawa, and many varieties of ferns and fungi. It provides a glimpse of how the local area looked before cultivation of the land changed the landscape.

Hukutaia is also an extensive collection of native plants and trees gathered from all parts of New Zealand and its off-shore islands. Many of the specimens are labelled. It is also home to many endemic, native and exotic birds.

A highlight is the magnificent ancient pūriri tree – Taketakerau.

## History

Hukutaia Domain was set aside as a reserve in 1918, mainly to protect Taketakerau.

From 1930 to 1970 Norman Potts, a keen local amateur botanist, travelled throughout New Zealand to collect plants for Hukutaia. His work was continued by Marc Heginbotham through the 1970s to 1990.

Today it is cared for by the volunteers of the Hukutaia Domain Care Group with support from Ōpōtiki District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Upokorehe.

## Tracks

### From the entrance

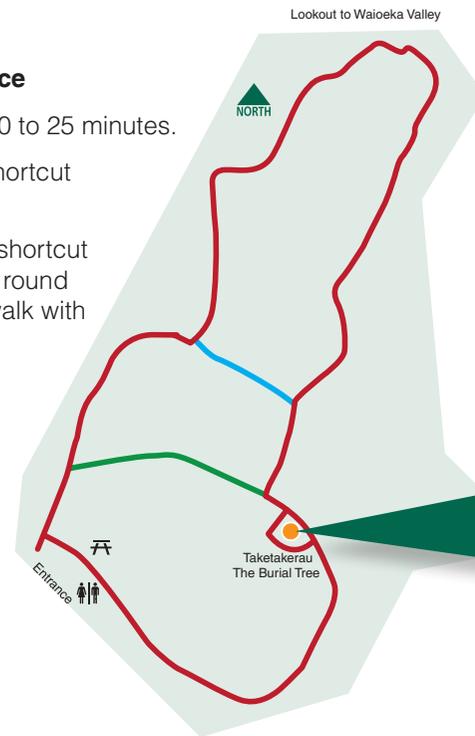
The **red** track – 20 to 25 minutes.

Using the **blue** shortcut – 15 minutes.

Using the **green** shortcut – 12 minutes (this round walk is an easy walk with no steps)

**Please keep to the tracks.**

**Allow extra time to stop, look and listen.**



## Facilities

- ◆ Large carpark
- ◆ Rest areas and picnic tables
- ◆ Public toilets



## Taketakerau – The Burial Tree

At the heart of Hukutaia stands Taketakerau, the burial tree. This giant pūriri tree, estimated to be over 2000 years old, was used by Upokorehe as a place to store the bones of their distinguished dead.



The tree was highly tapu and any interference with the site was a deadly affront to the atua (ancestral gods), bringing death to the offenders.

The hollow in Taketakerau the Burial Tree where bones of the dead used to be kept by the early Māori.

In the early days of European settlement, when a storm damaged the tree and exposed the bones, they were removed by the local iwi for reburial elsewhere.

