

The bridge projects on Ruruanga Stream

The Ruruanga Stream is straddled by nine bridges, eight of the nine were planned and built by the Rotary Club of Kawerau.

The first of these bridges (number 3 on the map) was built using a surplus steel girder from Tasman Pulp & Paper Co. It was relocated by the Rotary Club from its original position to Prideaux Park in 1974.

The then Borough Council produced a plan which became the basis for all the bridges (except the stone bridge). The material used for the principle beams defined how the bridges were designed (except number 6). They were made from concrete, steel, treated timber ... whatever was available. Often the material was generously donated by the Tasman Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd.

Bridge Number 6 on the plan is the unique "Stone Bridge". This bridge took 340 man-hours to make including 35 tonnes of rock with 2 tonnes of cement. Local volcanic rock does not have a grain and does not split where the bolster is placed, so it required the careful selection of rocks to fit the available spaces as the bridge sides grew. The centre of the bridge was created using two culvert pipes which were set into the bed of the tributary stream which flows into the Ruruanga Stream. This bridge has since become a scenic focus in Stoneham Walk and is often used in wedding photographs.

Bridges numbered 1 and 2 on the map were the last to be built.



Stoneham Walk

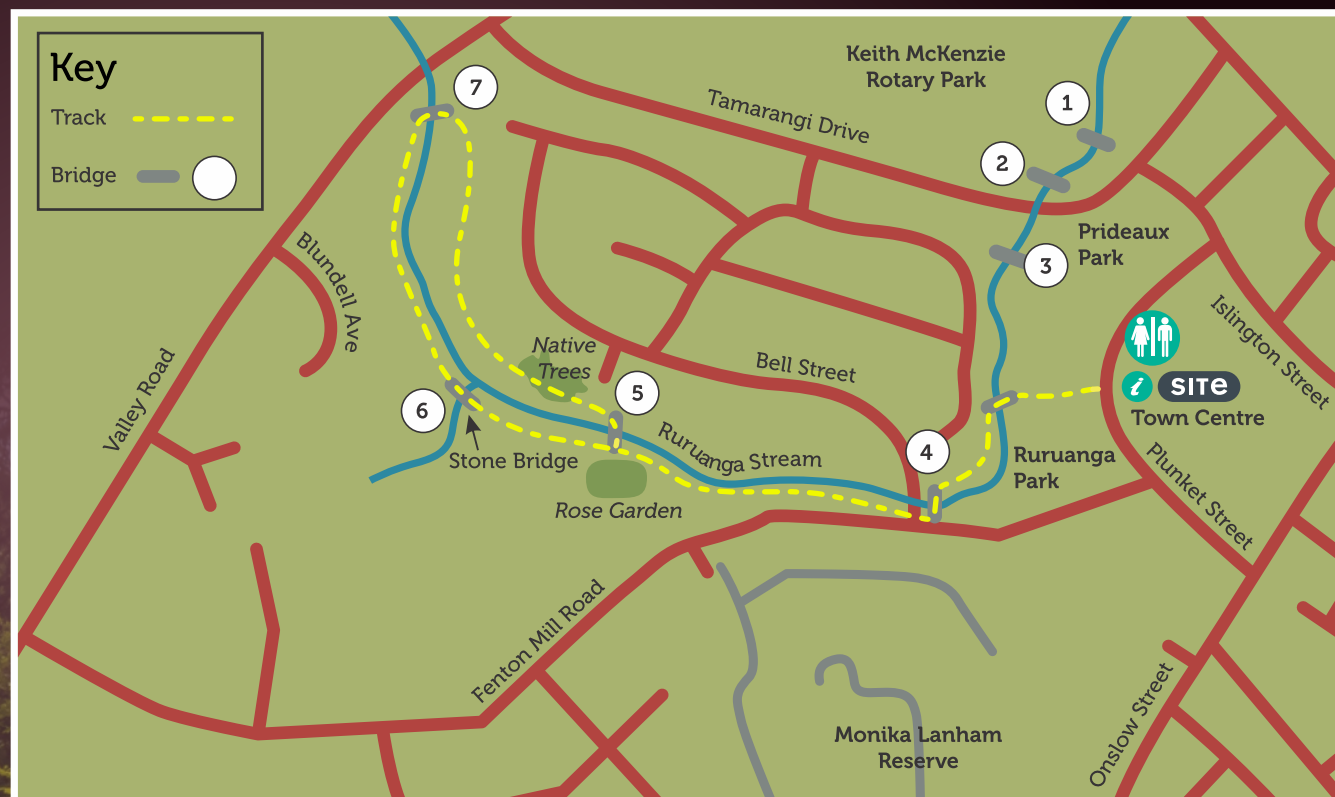
Kawerau



Stoneham Walk

Start/Finish: Information Centre Plunket Street
Time: Approx. 30 minutes

This is a delightful short walk through Kawerau's gardens and parks. Start at the Kawerau Walkways Sign, opposite the Information Centre and walk to the Ruruanga Stream past the Bowling Greens. Cross the foot bridge and turn left and walk through the grove of native trees to the Bell Street Bridge. Walk up to the road and cross Bell Street to enter Stoneham Walk, by the memorial plaque for Roy Stoneham, who was the Mayor of Kawerau from 1965 to 1983. Follow the track on the left hand side of the stream past the Rose Garden, over the picturesque Stone Bridge, past two more bridges and on to the last bridge below Valley Road culvert. You have the option of leaving the park onto Valley Road, and turning right or left to follow streets back to the Information Centre; but we suggest you cross the last bridge and return to the start on the other side of the stream.



Ruruanga Stream

Ruruanga stream is designated as a "Junior Angler's" stream where children can fish for trout. It is periodically restocked with trout - there's nothing like a successful catch to encourage children to take up trout fishing. There is a picnic area adjacent to the stream area that is a memorial to Rotarian Keith McKenzie who had a great deal of interest and put much effort into Junior Angling; he also assisted with the building of many of the bridges along the stream.