



# SOUTH WAIRARAPA

Kawakawa Station Walk & Country Village Heaven  
5 nights – Feb 2022

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Feb

WELLINGTON – FEATHERSTON - KAWAKAWA STATION

Depart Wellington by midday, if you are flying in, please arrive by 11.30am (lunch is your own arrangement today). We head out of the city and over the Remutaka Ranges to Wairarapa. **Featherston** is the gateway to the Wairarapa and has reinvented itself as a Booktown, each year holding a festival celebrating authors, books and readers. There will be time to browse a few shops before a Cheese Tasting at **C'Est Cheese**. This cute little shop is housed in a historic building brimming with character – within you will find a dedicated team of cheesemakers producing their own brand Remutaka Pass Creamery as well as stocking cheese from around NZ and the World.

We journey on towards the coast and our destination for the next few days – **Kawakawa Station** located on Cape Palliser Peninsula. We will spend the first night at Farm Cottage which was once the Station's shearers' quarters. Settle in and enjoy the sea views from the cottage which is bursting with character. Before dinner, we meet with our Hosts, Iain & Rebecca, to go over any queries you might have about the 3-day walk. Rebecca is renowned for her delicious country cooking and provides all meals whilst we are at Kawakawa. As dusk settles, enjoy your first hearty meal. An early night is in order in preparation for tomorrow's adventure roaming across one of Wairarapa's best kept secrets!

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Feb

KAWAKAWA STATION

After breakfast, we leave our luggage with Rebecca and depart on foot carrying just a day pack with a packed lunch, water bottle and jacket. Today's walk will cover 9 kms (approx 4 - 5 hours of walking time). Start with an easy stroll along the rugged beachfront before ascending 'The Ant' which takes us 616m above sea level. Yes, this may well be a challenge but you can set your own pace. The reward for your effort is **majestic 360 views**. Once you have made it to 'The Ant' it's downhill to Jakeb's Cabin. **Jakeb's Cabins** are in the middle of Jakeb's Ladder, the Station's largest paddock at a mere 343 hectares! Aptly named after the biblical 'Jacob's Ladder - a ladder leading to heaven' and after the day's walk you will understand why.

Our luggage, drinks and evening meal awaits us. After a hot shower, settle back and soak up the stunning views across rugged farmland and native bush – you can even see the South Island from up here! Unbelievable sunsets are a common occurrence from this height (weather dependent of course).

Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb

KAWAKAWA STATION

After breakfast, we'll get our packed lunch together, pack our bags for transportation and then set off walking. Today you will cover 9 kms which sees us walking onto Double Saddle, an undulating bush track which showcases stunning

examples of mature native bush and birds. Set your own pace and enjoy strolling in your own meditative world. Along the way there will be clearings with breath-taking views.

In the afternoon we reach the Purple Hut, set amongst beautiful native bush with the Aorangi Forest Park nearby. Sit back with a well earned drink and listen to the sound of the Otakaha stream and bird song – the perfect place to replenish your soul.

Purple Hut is an ex-Army hut with all the country home comforts. Our luggage has been delivered to the Hut along with a delicious dinner and dessert.

### **Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb                      KAWAKAWA – NGAWI – CAPE PALLISER - MARTINBOROUGH**

Take your time over breakfast and enjoy the tranquil surroundings before heading out on the last morning of your walking adventure which is approx. 7kms. Meander through bush and crystal-clear braided streams before arriving back at the Station Homestead for a cuppa and a hot shower. We gather our luggage and bid farewell to our Hosts.

A short drive along the coast past a rugged golf course with square greens, brings us to the quirky fishing village of **Ngawi**. It's quite a sight to behold seeing a beach full of machinery and fishing boats! We meet up with a local character and learn about the crayfish industry and what it's like living in a village on the wild Cook Strait with more tractors per head of population than anywhere else in the world!

A little further around the coast is **Cape Palliser Lighthouse** – the only lighthouse in NZ to be painted in red & white stripes. Many a ship was lost on this notorious part of the Cook Strait until the light was lit in 1897 reducing the number of lives lost but the area still remained hazardous. In 1986 the lighthouse became automated. If you have the energy, climbing the 253 steps to the lighthouse will afford you wonderful views. Directly below is the North Island's only colony of breeding **fur seals** sunbathing and sleeping on the rocks between fishing in the sea – it's easy to lose track of the time as you gaze at these fascinating creatures.

**Martinborough** beckons with its heritage buildings, traditional town square and array of sassy bars, restaurants, and charming shops. We check in to our gorgeous boutique hotel located right on the square and have time to relax before dinner this evening.

### **Thu 24<sup>th</sup> Feb                      MARTINBOROUGH**

Day at leisure. You can have a sleep in, enjoy breakfast in the hotel, do some shopping, visit the museum, take a stroll around town or just relax in the hotel's quiet courtyard.

Optional: Martinborough is a "wine village" and this afternoon those who are keen can join the group for a cycle around the vineyards and partake in some wine tastings. The terrain is flat, the roads wide, and the vineyards all within a 1 – 2 km of each other. Bike hire & tastings at your own cost.

### **Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Feb                      MARTINBOROUGH - GREYTOWN - WELLINGTON**

After breakfast, we'll check out and drive 20 mins to Greytown. On a Victorian main street you will find boutique shops selling designer fashion, handcrafted treasures, exquisite homewares, antiques and much more. An alternative to shopping could be to hire a bike and weave your way around the streets taking in the various heritage buildings and sites of NZ's first planned inland town. There is a well sign-posted 9km cycling route which is highly recommended.

Early afternoon we return to Wellington. If you are flying out today, please book your flight to depart after 5pm.

**Price:**

\$1599 per person twin share\*

Single supplement only available at Martinborough Hotel – additional \$275 per person

\*during the Station walk you will be sharing bunk rooms with 2 or 3 other ladies

**Includes:**

- Transportation by minicoach ex Wellington
- Tour Escort
- 5 nights accommodation (3 nights Kawakawa Station, 2 nights The Martinborough Hotel)
- Kawakawa Station 3-day Walk (including all meals & luggage transportation)
- Cheese Tasting
- Breakfast both days in Martinborough

**Excludes:**

- Flights / transportation to/from Wellington
- Travel Insurance
- Meals not specified (2 lunches, 2 dinners)
- Optional tours
- Items of a personal nature

**Important Information:**

A reasonable level of fitness is required for this tour. Special emphasis should be placed on hill climb preparation for you to really enjoy the walking. Kawakawa Station Walk is fully catered and you will be provided with morning and afternoon tea and all provisions for breakfast, lunch and dinner, including dessert. You may like to bring nibbles and your choice of beverage for before dinner. Special dietary requirements can be catered for. The Station accommodation is rustic and totally unique with hot showers and flushing toilets. You will also be treated to comfortable beds and fluffy pillows with a quality bottom sheet and pillowcase. A fresh towel and face cloth is supplied at each hut. There is limited cell phone reception whilst on the walk. The group will carry a VHS radio for use in emergencies.

**Group Size:**

Minimum 7

Maximum 12