



Tour Aotearoa Updates – Feb 2019

On such a long journey as Tour Aotearoa, things change. Here are the important updates.

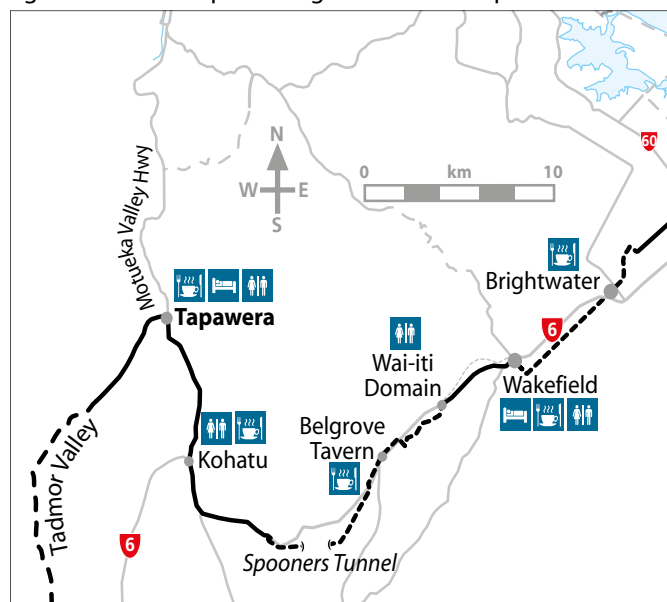
NORTH ISLAND

- Pg 10 Broadwood Homestay has now closed.
- Pg 14 Waipoua Forest Café and the info centre have a new phone number: 09 439 6441.
- Pg 15 At 13.0km, Donnelly's Crossing Cafe (at the crossroads of Katui Rd and Donnelly's Station Rd) is open in summer. It stocks drinks and snack food. Cash only.
- Pg 16 New Dargaville bike shop "Time To", 45 Normanby St, Dargaville. Ph 09 439 0100.
- Pg 18 Kaipara Harbour Crossing: Shamrock Charters have retired. There are now two boats to contact for crossing Kaipara Harbour, and both must be booked well in advance:
Wayne at **Ali Cat Charters**, www.katcharters.co.nz, Ph 021 258 5431
Terry at **Kaipara Cruises**, phone 09 420 8466
- Pg 21 At 31.6 km, veer left to stay on Oparakau Road (the signpost is missing)
- Pg 23 At 18.6 km the signpost on the ground says Corlett Rd, not Run Rd as shown on Google Maps.
- Pg 26 At 44.2 km there is a new section of cycle trail extending from the end of Takau St to Upper Queen Street. It will avoid the need to spiral under the Newton Rd bridge. Head right when you reach Upper Queen Street to get onto Alex Evans St.
- Pg 26 AvantiPlus Waitakere has moved, and is now AvantiPlus Westgate, at 21 Fernhill Drive.
- Pg 28 At 8.3 km, from the cul-de-sac cycle under the South Western Motorway bridge and turn sharp left to ride the bridge clip-on path. [Old Mangere Bridge is closed for repairs.] Follow the path to Waterfront Rd, turn left on Coronation Rd, then right onto Kiwi Esplanade.
- Pg 29 At 14.6 km. There is a new cyclepath signposted "Airport Route" running beside SH20A from Kirkbride Drive to Landing Drive. Straight after crossing Landing Drive, use the lights to cross SH20A to the path at 17.3 km (also the limesand path is now a concrete path).
- Pg 30 Auckland riders advise there are now a large number of trucks using Alfriston-Ardmore Road (just past Totara Park). Phil Estall says "It's bloody awful!"
To avoid that part of the course, we recommend that from the roundabout at the corner of Stratford Road and Alfriston Road, you turn right down Alfriston Road for 170 metres, then left down Porchester for 2.8km, then left into Airfield for 4.5 km. That will take you to Mullins Road, which is back on course.
- Pg 32 Hunua Accommodation: The Bike Bunker has just opened at 66 Head Road just south of Hunua, beside the TA route. It's well situated as it's halfway between Auckland and Miranda. It has camping, a dormitory, and a Bed & Breakfast. Phone Sally on 021 0231 3706.
- Pg 33 There are public toilets at the 6.0km mark.
- Pg 36 Garden Depot on the Hauraki Rail Trail has closed. No more Devonshire tea stops there!
- Pg 37 At 6.0 km there's a new cafe, The Forge Kitchen, 9 Alexandra Rd, Te Aroha West, Ph 07 884 8338.
- Pg 38 Lake District Adventures Accommodation is located at the start of Waikato River Trail, 396 Horahora Rd. Ph 0800 287 448.
- Pg 43 The Pureora Information Centre has burnt down. Contact Pa Harakeke to book the Pareora cabins.
- Pg 46 At 35 km mark, turn off to the Timber Trail lodge is 500 metres before the Piropiro Flats campsite.
- Pg 53 Anndion Lodge and Motel on the TA route heading in to Whanganui at 143 Anzac Parade, Ph 06 343 3593.
- Pg 56 The Apiti Tavern phone number is now 027 770 779. Phone to check their opening hours.
- Pg 59 Ashhurst Inn (food & accomm.) 81 York St, Ph 06 326 9311.
- Pg 61 Traffic on Pahiatua Aokautere Rd ("the Pahiatua Track") has gotten a lot worse recently. Expect heavy traffic or try to ride it early in the morning.
- Pg 72 The Bluebridge Cook Strait ferry no longer charges for bikes. Interislander ferries do still charge.

SOUTH ISLAND

Pg 5 The Pelorus Bridge Café opens from around 9am to 4pm now. Great food!

Pg 10 Revised map showing new route via Spooners Tunnel:



Pg 11 0 km Continue down Edward St to Highway 6 and **turn left** (don't carry on to Pigeon Valley Rd).

A new section of cycle trail is being built beside the road. As of 4 Feb 2019 it's not yet completed, so ride south on Highway 6. If you see new Great Taste Trail signs, just follow them towards Wai-iti Domain.

5.1 km Turn left through Wai-iti Domain and follow the Great Taste Trail signs southwest.

9.9 km Belgrove Tavern, ph 03 541 8105.

16 km Spooners Tunnel - a 1.4 km old rail tunnel.

24 km From Kohatu Cafe (ph 03 522 4440) to Tapawera follow Motueka Valley Hwy to Tapawera.

33 km Tapawera village with cafe, Four Square, and petrol station.

Pg 14 15 km gravel roads followed by 18 km sealed roads. Includes the wonderful Braeburn Track.

Pg 17 There is now a bridge across Big River, so you can get to the hut no matter how much it is raining.

Pg 23 At 50.3 km (300 metres past the 50 km marker post) there is camping available beside the West Coast Wilderness Trail (about halfway between Kumara and Cowboy Paradise). It has an enormous tepee, toilets and solar power. You can't miss it. Payment by cash only. Ph 027 246 0266.

Pg 24 Hurunui Jacks has closed (and is for sale).

Pg 26 The Totara Bridge Station [campground] is now called Ross Beach Top10 Holiday Park.

Pg 30 In 2018 the road up to Fox Glacier was closed due to storm damage, but you could still ride the cycleway (which is awesome), and from the road closed signs you can walk 100 metres to an historic bridge from where there are great views up the valley to the mountains.

Pg 31 The first 16 km from Fox is mostly downhill, not "the first 26 km".

Pg 34 48 km Turn left ... or turn right to head south.

Pg 34 48.9 km Also, there are toilets 100 metres further on.

Pg 40 The boat trip across Lake Wakatipu is now \$45 per person and \$5 per bike.

Pg 41 Camping near Walter Peak Station, Lake Wakatipu. Camp at the awesome new campsite overlooking Lake Wakatipu. It is 900 metres to the right of Walter Peak Station jetty (just after hopping off the boat). It has gas hotplates and is free to camp at!

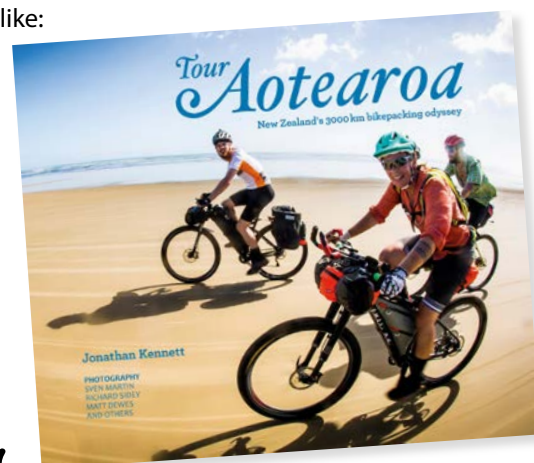
Pg 45 There are public toilets beside the trail beyond Tweed Street.

Pg 47 The phone number for Catch-A-Bus is now 027 4497 994.

Pg 47 Air New Zealand at Invercargill Airport sell bike boxes for \$25 each.

If you notice anything has changed during your own Tour, please contact us at info@kennett.co.nz so that we can pass your advice on to future riders. Thanks and good luck!

You might also like:



Tour Aotearoa

New Zealand's 3000 km bikepacking odyssey

Tour Aotearoa is an inspirational coffee table book that showcases the 3000-kilometre bikepacking journey from Cape Reinga to Bluff. Available at all good book stores and online at kennett.nz