



# Woodhill & Ararimu Block (Riverhead) Forests

FILMING AND EVENT PROSPECTUS





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*Nau Mai, Haere Mai Ki Te Ngahere O Woodhill!*



# Nau Mai, Haere Mai Ki Te Ngahere O Woodhill!

Located approximately 40km north-west of Auckland City is the extensive landscape now known as Woodhill Forest. Of great cultural significance to Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, ownership returned to the tribe in 2013 under the management of its commercial entity Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Ngahere Ltd.

This 12 500 hectare pine forest is home to a variety of licensed recreational businesses including horse riding, mountain biking, tree climbing, paintball, 4 wheel driving and off-road motorcycling.

Woodhill includes a range of diverse landscapes ideally suited to film production and events. The forest has been home to a number of international feature films as well as many smaller scale shoots, and is ideally located in close proximity to both Auckland City and its International Airport, and the industry's film services and studios.

The range of locations, including pine forest, native bush, a stream, lakes, a lagoon, open spaces and dune-land running down to a wild black sand beach, are all easily accessed via a gravel road network throughout the forest - making it ideal for film productions.

The forest's scale and separation from residential living lend to its use as an event location, from sporting activities (such as the World Masters Games) to music concerts (Oro'17), to weddings, to corporate retreats to school visits / camps, to tours hosted by Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara.

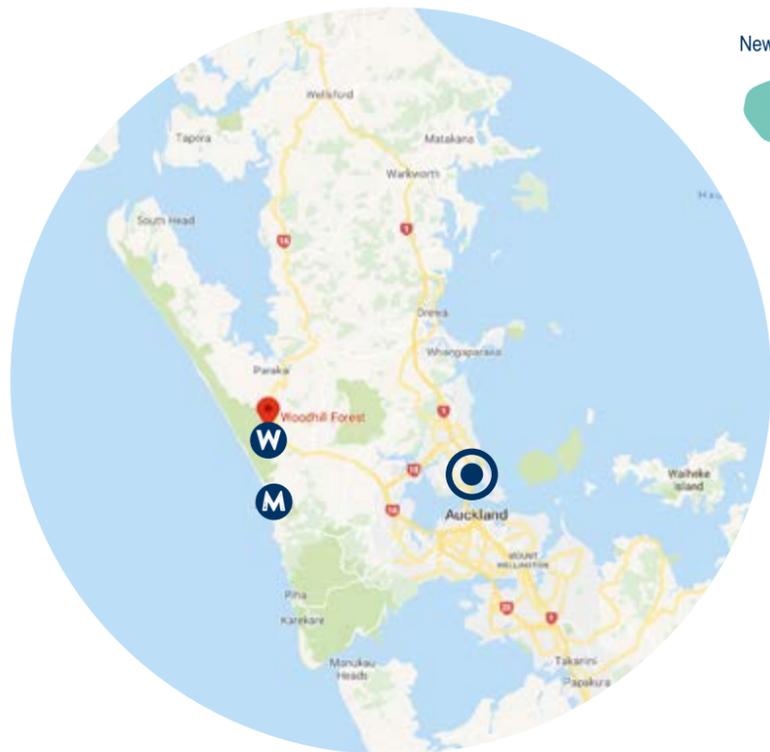
THE IDEAL  
LOCATION  
FOR BOTH FILM  
PRODUCTION  
& EVENTS

*"Wild black sand beaches, dunes,  
pine forests, native bush, streams,  
lakes, lagoon..."*



# Getting there

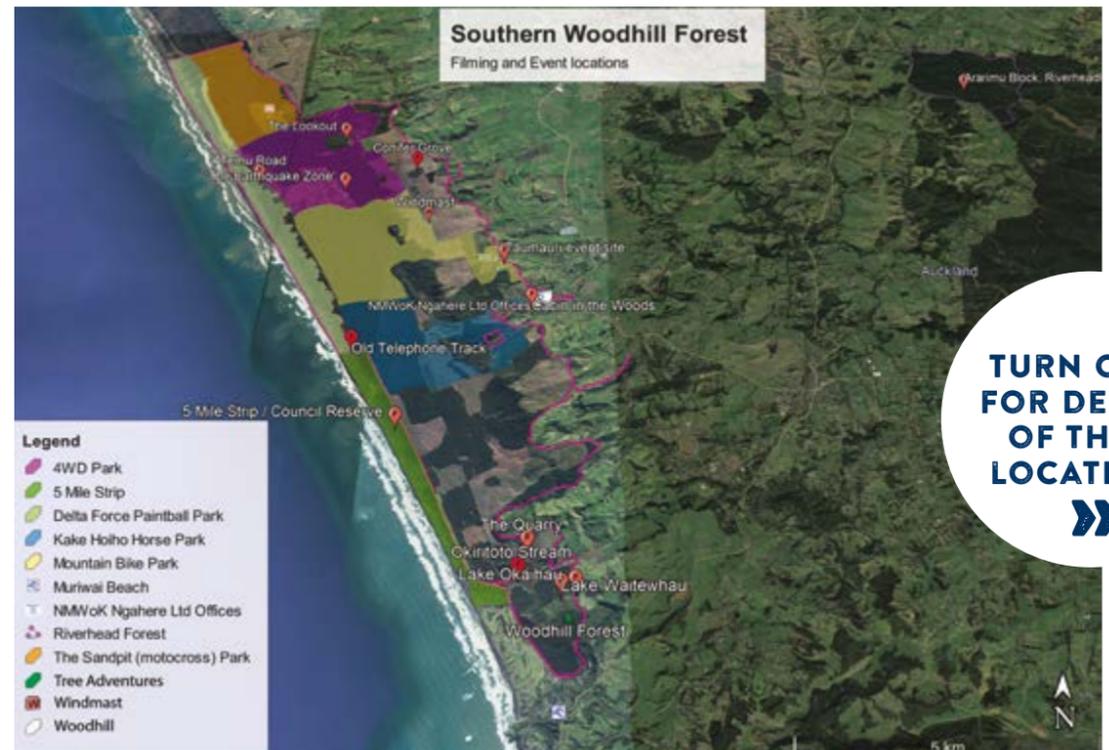
- ⊙ Auckland CBD
- W Woodhill Forest
- M Muriwai



## Drive times

- ⊙ to W = 30 minutes
- W to M = 15 minutes
- M to ⊙ = 30 minutes

# Forest locations



TURN OVER FOR DETAILS OF THESE LOCATIONS

*"Only half and hour from Auckland City and yet a world apart..."*

# General Forest Locations

## Conifer Grove

Most production companies filming in Woodhill use this site, which has a unique look. It has a wide variety of trees, from twisting to straight, and dark atmospheric areas. Accessibility to site is good, with 4WD required internally to reach some areas within the wider location. It is a definite must-see for all scouts / location managers.

### »PARKING

At the entrance to the grove. Extra parking can be along the forest road to one side and there is also more parking close by for catering or setting up main unit.

### »ACCESS POINTS

#### 1 Restall Road (one gate)

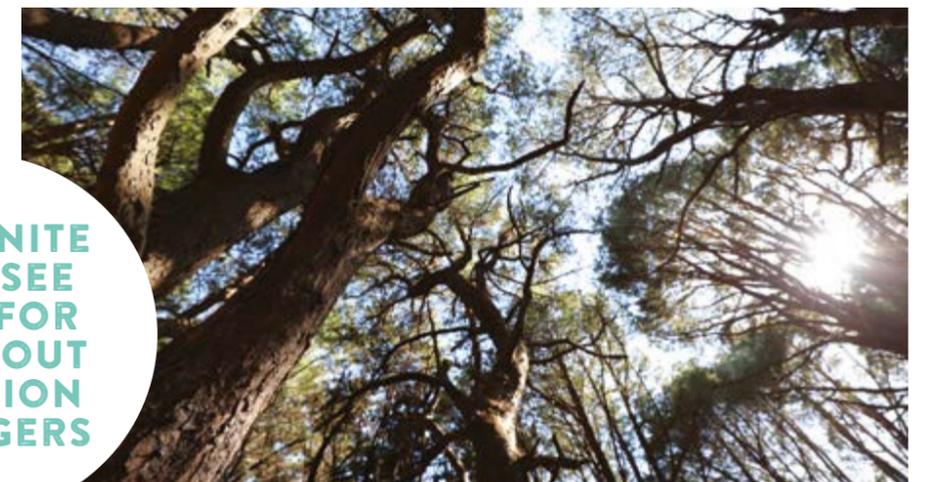
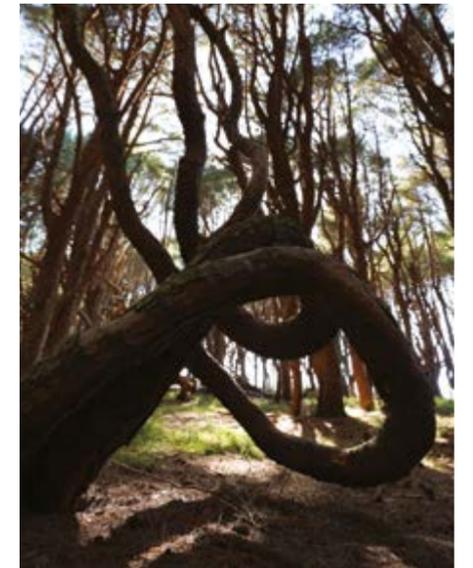
**Drive time:** 10 min from Forest HQ on Restall Rd.

**Road conditions:** 5km forest roads, loose gravel, some winding road.

#### 2 Rimmers Road (two gates)

**Drive time and road conditions:**

20 min from Forest HQ on Restall Rd via a mix of state highway, public road and gravel forest roads.



A DEFINITE  
MUST SEE  
AREA FOR  
ALL SCOUT  
LOCATION  
MANAGERS

*"Twisting trees, pine needles, horse tracks, rolling hills, shapes and shadows"*

## Temu Road

This area also has a unique look. The trees are very twisted and the branches have pockets where the pine needles collect in the arms of the tree – giving them an old spooky feel and look.

### »»PARKING

There is road-side parking and some off-road parking available.

### »»ACCESS POINTS

#### 1 Restall Road (one gate)

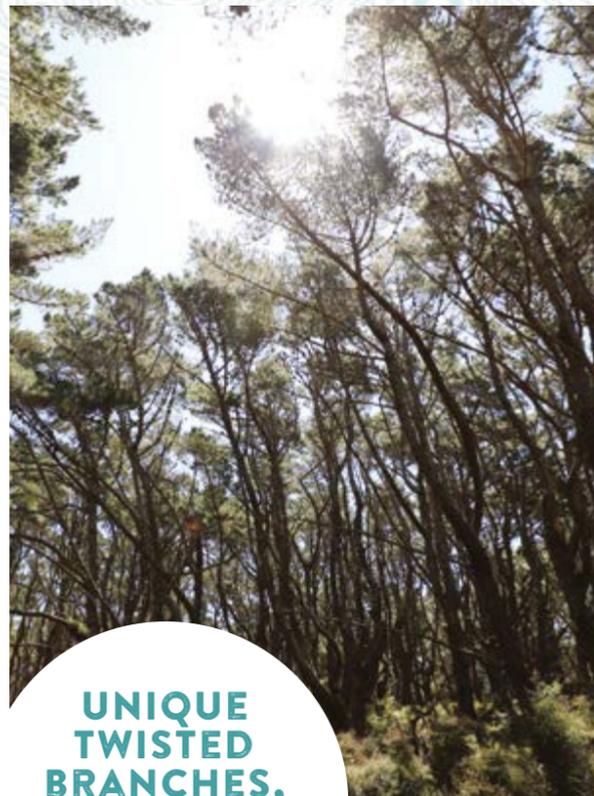
**Drive time:** 25min from Forest HQ on Restall Rd

**Road conditions:** 12km forest roads – winding, loose gravel. Comes to 4WD track (approx 400m).

#### 2 Rimmers Road (two gates)

**Drive time:** 30min from Forest HQ on Restall Rd (although you will have to drive fewer forest roads).

**Road conditions:** Approx. 15km, 5 km of forest roads, loose gravel and some windy downhill sections.



UNIQUE  
TWISTED  
BRANCHES,  
GIVING AN  
OLD SPOOKY  
LOOK



## The Quarry

The old quarry is an area of extrusion of the volcanic rock andesite. Outcrops of andesite are visible around the site, much of which is a broad, flat-based, shallow pit

### »»PARKING

Limited parking along the side of adjacent forest roads.

### »»ACCESS POINTS

#### 1 Restall Road

**Drive time:** 15min

#### 2 Coast Rd, Muriwai end (two gates)

**Drive time:** 5min

**Road conditions:** Roads are in good condition except for the final road immediately around the quarry itself, which is rough but drivable in a 4WD

THE OLD  
QUARRY.  
VOLCANIC  
ROCK AND  
OUTCROPS OF  
ANDESITE



## Waionui Lagoon / Kaipara South Head

Forest land owned by Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara runs down to the lagoon. View out across the harbour to Pōuto. Secluded with no houses or buildings in the back ground. Tī Tree Island close by (boat access only).

»»PARKING Plentiful

### »»ACCESS AND ROAD CONDITIONS

Good vehicle access off Trig Road, with a maintained forest road providing easy access right to the water's edge.

**Drive time:** 45 min from Restall Rd Forest HQ





## Ōkiritoto Stream

A stream that rolls out of the hills down into the forest and out to the beach. It is narrow in places but opens into some wider pockets.

### »PARKING

Road-side with the option also of parking in the nearby Council parking areas. Conditions do apply for Council areas.

### »ACCESS POINTS

#### 1 Coast Road, Muriwai end (two gates).

**Drive time:** approx 15 - 20mins from Restall Rd HQ.

**Road conditions:** Short gravel road, then across the concrete ford which can flood in very heavy rain (especially if coinciding with a high tide), particularly in winter - which means re-routing via Restall Road.

#### 2 Restall Road

**Drive time:** 15mins

**Road conditions:** Gravel forest roads.



## Telephone Track

Situated in our Kake Hōiho Equestrian Park, this site contains big trees and horse tracks. Some tracks are wide enough to drive a vehicle through and have been used for forest stunts, horses running through the trees, or tracks disguised as old roads. The area is relatively flat with low rolling hills and shadows in amongst the tall pines.

### »PARKING

Road side

### »ACCESS POINTS

#### 1 Restall Road (one gate)

**Drive time:** 7mins

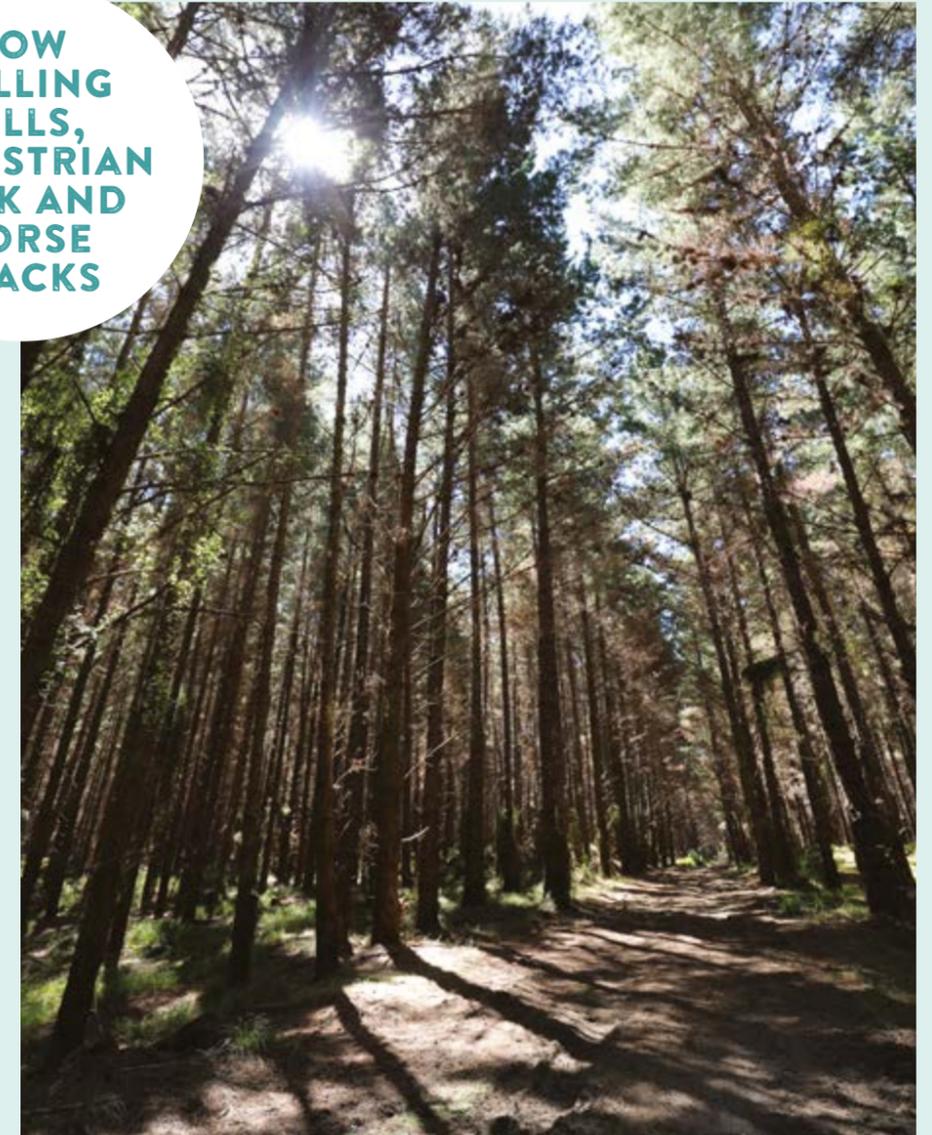
**Road conditions:** 4km forest roads.

#### 2 Coast Road – Muriwai end (two gates)

**Drive time:** 25mins. You would only be advised to take this route if it is deemed to be unsafe to use forest roads beyond Restall Rd, eg. due to harvesting.



LOW ROLLING HILLS, EQUESTRIAN PARK AND HORSE TRACKS



*"Rolling off the hills down into the forest"*



## Building locations

There are numerous buildings and structures within Woodhill Forest that can be used as locations or backdrops for a wide variety of scenes. The forest headquarters, a fire depot, a large machinery workshop 'hangar', forest huts, pumphouses, sheds and masts, and even created 'ruins'.

## Woodhill Forest HQ area

The headquarters for Woodhill Forest are used as office space during the day by Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara staff. Adjacent buildings include a large machinery workshop 'hangar' with a gritty, industrial look and a utilitarian fire depot. Located only a few hundred metres off the state highway via the sealed part of Restall Rd, these are all readily accessible at the entrance to the forest.

### »PARKING

Plentiful

### »ROAD CONDITIONS

Sealed, private road



*"Gritty industrial backdrops, lookout tower, sheds, huts, hangar, fire depot, pumphouse"*

# Forest Hut and Storage Building

Small forest hut and a storage building with old pines behind. Located at the entrance of the northern part of the Forest.

## »»PARKING

Roadside parking on forestry roads. Additional parking may be available at the immediately adjacent NZDF base by arrangement with the Defence Force.

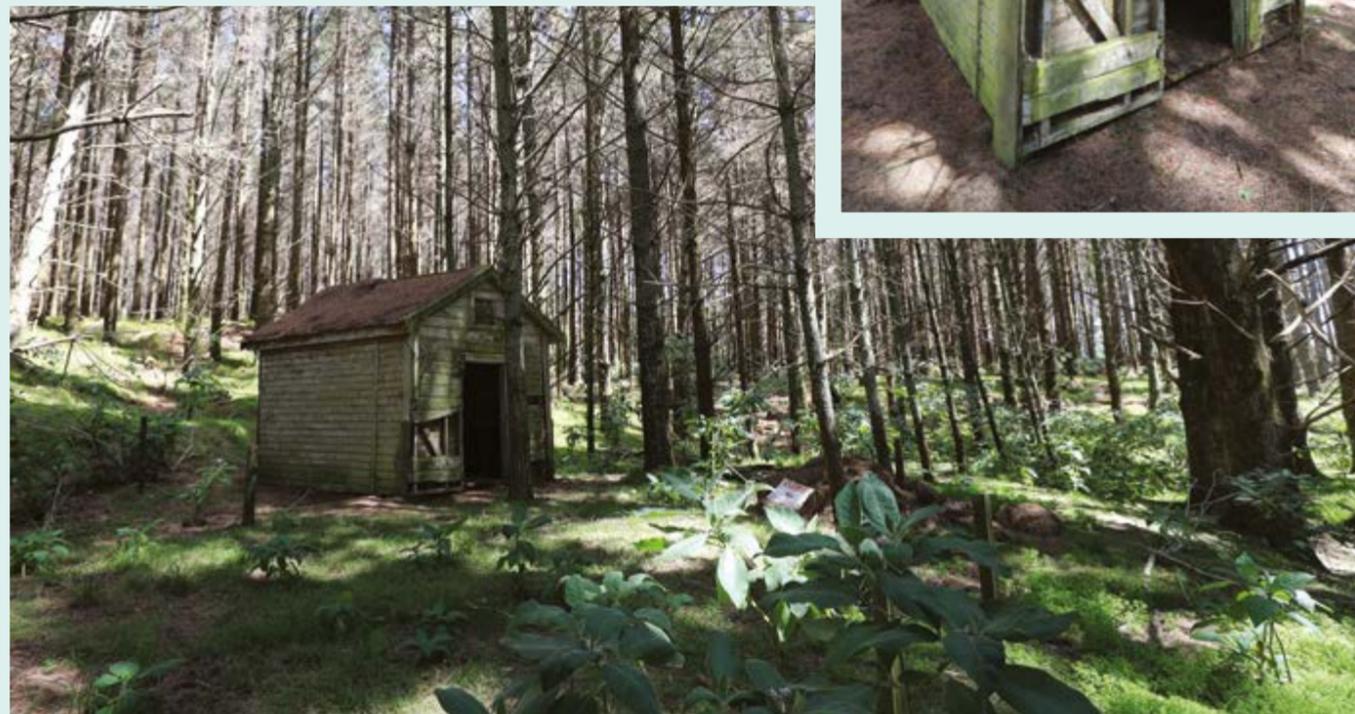
## »»ACCESS POINT

**Easy access off Trig Road**

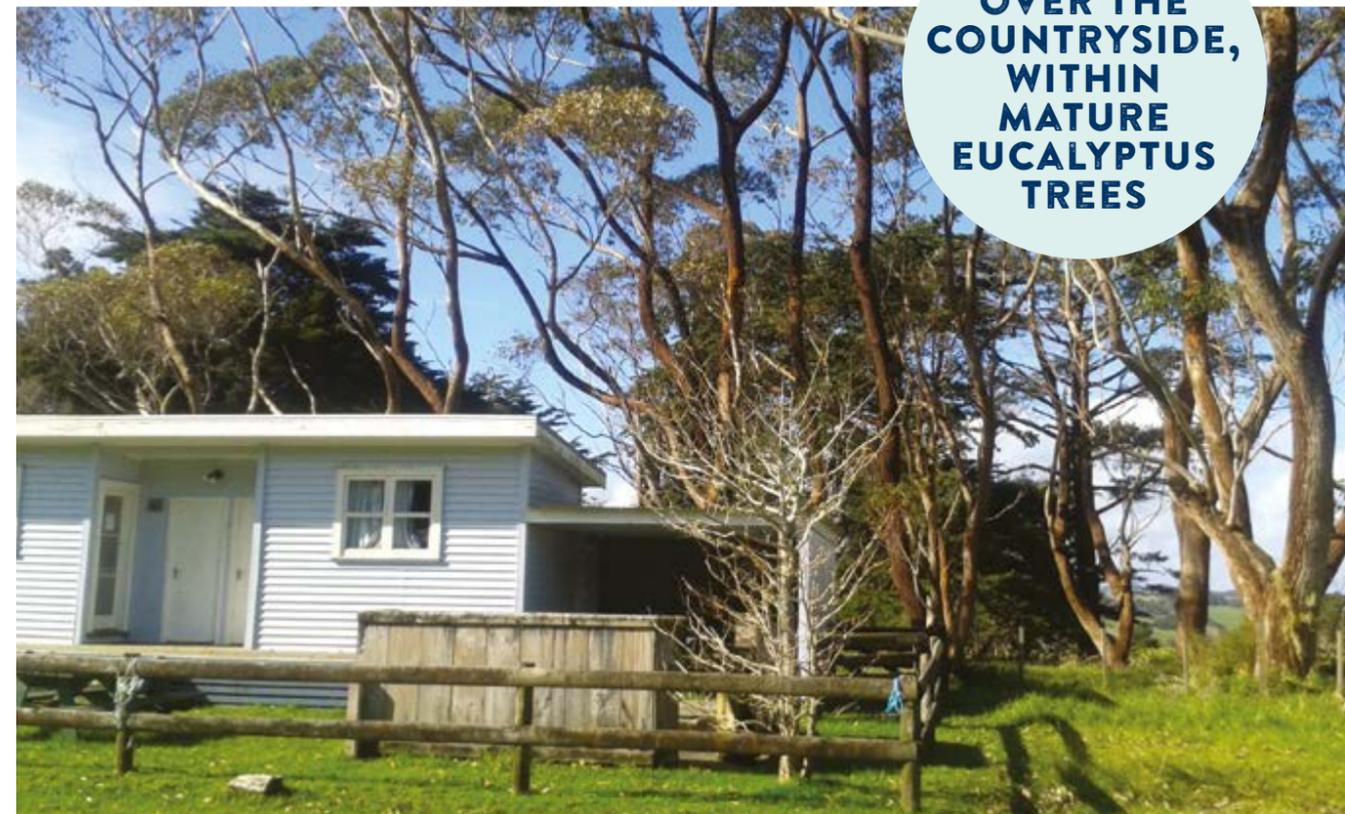
**Drive time:** 45 minutes from the Restall Rd forestry HQ



STORAGE BUILDING



**VIEWS  
OVER THE  
COUNTRYSIDE,  
WITHIN  
MATURE  
EUCALYPTUS  
TREES**



## Cabin in the woods

A cabin associated with our horse park which can be hired as accommodation, or which could function as a location in its own right. It has power and water, a kitchen, shower and toilet, two double bunks and ample free space around it in the form of paddocks. Facing a large

clearing in the forest, it is backed by a copse of mature eucalypts. From behind and to the side of the building are views to the east and south over surrounding countryside.

## »»PARKING

Plentiful

## »»ACCESS POINT

**Via Restall Rd (1 gate)**

**Drive time:** 5 minutes from the Restall Rd forestry HQ

**Road conditions:** Requires driving on gravel forestry roads / tracks. 4WD better but not absolutely necessary.



## The Lookout

The lookout tower is about 5m high with a small cabin on top. Located in a clearing on a ridge, it looks out over native bush dropping steeply away below to pine forest to the south and north, and beach / sea in the distance to the west. The view is over forest and countryside to the east.

### »»PARKING

Limited parking immediately adjacent, however extra space could be made available in the nearby 4WD carpark and on forest roads

### 2 Rimmers Road (2 gates)

**Drive time:** 20 min from Restall Rd Forestry HQ  
**Road conditions:** Gravel roads once within the forest, 150m 4WD track on final approach to lookout

### »»ACCESS POINTS

#### 1 Restall Road (3 gates)

**Drive time:** 15-20 min from Restall Rd Forestry HQ

*"In a small clearing on the ridge overlooking native bush"*



# Lake Locations



HE TAPUWAE O KĀWHARU

A  
TEARDROP  
SHAPED LAKE  
FRINGED  
WITH NATIVE  
BUSH AND  
PINE

There are a number of lakes in Woodhill, from modest to very large in size. Several can be background for shots as the forestland runs down to their margins. Two of the smaller ones however are owned / largely owned by Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara and so filming on the water itself is a possibility.

## He Tapuwae o Kāwharu

Teardrop shaped, c. 175 x 100m. Fringed by native bush and pine. Secluded.

### »PARKING

Road-side

### »ACCESS POINT

Off Trig Road and onto Tasman Road, then onto Waionui or High North Roads.

Drive time: 45-50mins drive from Restall Rd HQ

Road conditions: Loose gravel, then down a 4WD track until you come out to the lake.

## Waitewhau

Teardrop shaped, c. 100 x 50m. In a natural basin encircled by dense native bush. Secluded.

### »PARKING

Road-side

### »ACCESS POINT

Off grass track

Drive time: 20 mins drive from Restall Rd HQ (one gate / barricade)

Road conditions: State highway / sealed public roads most of the way. Final few minutes gravel roads. Can also be accessed using almost entirely internal forest roads, but route via highway and public roads easier.



*"There are a number of lakes in Woodhill, from modest to very large in size"*

# Other areas

The variety of scenery in our 12 500 Ha forest is huge: forestry roads and tracks; clearings; undulating hills; trees of all shapes and sizes, exotic and native; dune-land; artificial ponds; views over Muriwai Beach and the Tasman Sea. We also have a range of adventure experiences in our forest, some of which could be locations / scenery themselves:

- » MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK
- » TREE ADVENTURES
- » 4WD DRIVE PARK
- » SANDPIT MOTORBIKE
- » KAKE HŌIHO EQUESTRIAN PARK
- » DELTA FORCE PAINTBALL

Woodhill is predominantly sand-based and self-draining, which allows for all year access to most locations.

*"We also have a huge range of adventure experiences in our forest"*

**6**  
MAJOR  
ADVENTURE  
PARKS IN THE  
FOREST



*"Forest roads and tracks, clearings, dune-land, views over the Tasman Sea"*



# Event Locations in Woodhill Forest



## Taumauri

A former camp site, Taumauri is a large amphitheatre with an extensive flat central area surrounded by grassed / vegetated sand-dune embankments. It was the venue for the Oro17 music festival, for which it hosted several thousand people.

### »»PARKING

Ample on site (on grass). For larger events, adjacent space in the Bike Park carpark or surrounding forestry roads may be able to be arranged.

### »»ACCESS POINT

**Via Restall Road (one gate)**  
**Drive time:** 5 min from Forest HQ  
**Road Conditions:** sealed private road, to gravel forestry roads, to gravel / grass track. 4WD better but not essential.

## 'Earthquake Zone'

This area was created as part of the "Rescue Run" event. It includes an approximately 1m deep man-made pond lined with waterproof canvas to hold the water, and a maze made out of concrete road barriers with an attached ply wall.

### »»PARKING

Available on the side of the road and off-road on sand.

### »»ACCESS POINTS

#### 1 Via Restall Road (one gate)

**Drive time:** 17 min from Forest HQ

**Road Conditions:** sealed private road, to gravel forestry roads

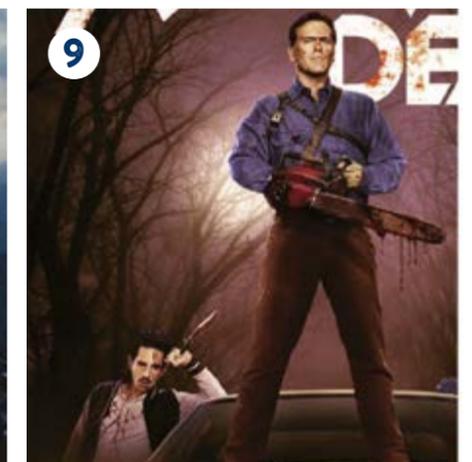
#### 2 Via Rimmers Road (2 gates)

**Drive time:** 17 min from Forest HQ

**Road conditions:** sealed state highway and public road, to gravel forestry roads



# Past film productions in Woodhill Forest



1 Legend of the Seeker 2 Yogi Bear (2010) 3 Xena Warrior Princess 4 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys (1995-1999) 5 Power Rangers 6 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: the Chronicles of Narnia (2005) 7 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon II 8 The Shannara Chronicles 9 Ash vs Evil Dead

*"Weddings to corporate retreats,  
school visits to music  
festivals..."*

## Event Overview



SHOT IN CONIFER GROVE



Woodhill Forest has hosted many fantastic events over the years - from a wide range of sporting activities to weddings to corporate retreats to school visits / camps to tours to a music festival.

Only half an hour from Auckland City and yet a world apart, Woodhill lends itself to this great spread of uses. The Forest offers separation from residential living, scale, a variety of beautiful and accessible scenery and topography, culture and history and facilitatory infrastructure. It already supports fun and interesting recreational activities that can be enjoyed by visitors - tree climbing, horse riding, mountain biking, off-roading and paintball. These may be attractive to incorporate into your event.

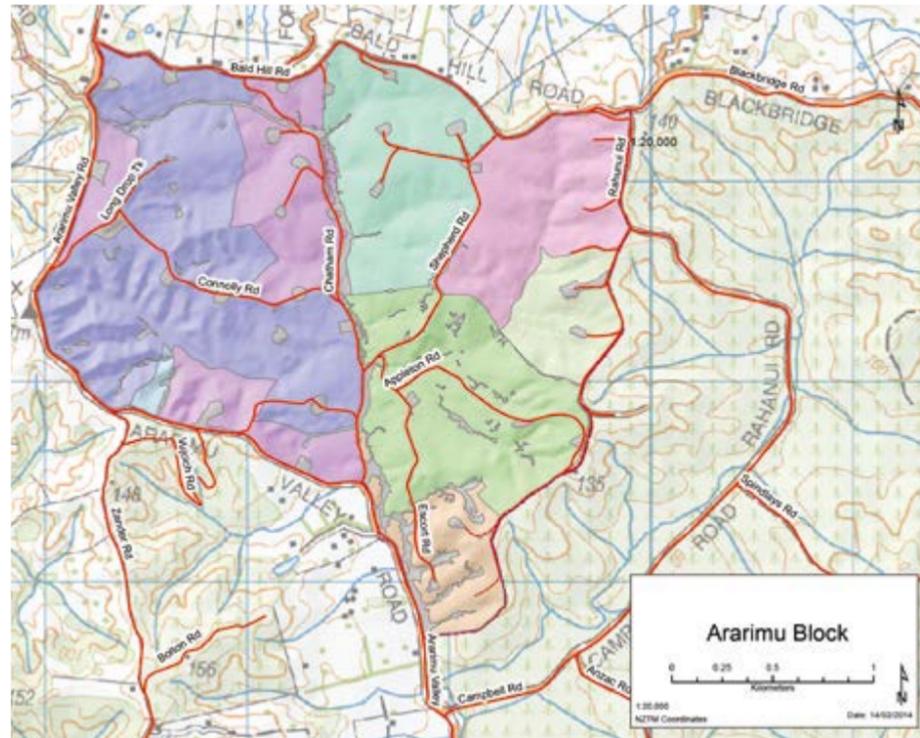
### Previous events of note hosted at least in part in Woodhill Forest:

- » Woodhill 100 (significant motorsport event held annually in Woodhill - for the last couple of years in the southern end of the Forest)
- » 2017 World Masters Games (orienteering events were held across the Forest and mountain biking events in the Bike Park) and Oceania Orienteering Champs
- » Oro17 music festival held in the Taumauri camping area
- » Rescue Run (a simulated rescue team challenge event)
- » South Head Multisport Challenge
- » Outdoor movies

# Riverhead Forest

Only 25 minutes from Auckland City but in very rural surrounds, Riverhead Forest can be a great location for all sorts of uses. Over the years it has hosted various non-forestry activities and events - from off-road motorcycling and driving to horse-riding, mountain biking and paintball.

The 500 hectare "Ararimu Block" owned by Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara offers separation from residential living, scale, a variety of accessible scenery and topography (including both exotic and native vegetation, and waterways), and some useful basic infrastructure such as roading."



- R** Riverhead Forest
- W** Woodhill Forest
- M** Muriwai

**For booking information and fees please visit**

[WWW.WOODHILLFOREST.CO.NZ](http://WWW.WOODHILLFOREST.CO.NZ)

## Local Event and Film Directory

» **FilmNZ**  
[nzfilm.co.nz](http://nzfilm.co.nz)  
(NZ Film Commission)

» **Crew Auckland**  
[crewauckland.co.nz](http://crewauckland.co.nz)  
(crew/equipment hire)

» **Crew Wellington**  
[crewwellington.co.nz](http://crewwellington.co.nz)  
(crew/equipment hire)

» **Crewlist**  
[crewlist.co.nz](http://crewlist.co.nz)  
(crew hire)

» **Screen Auckland**  
[aucklandnz.com/film](http://aucklandnz.com/film)  
(Auckland Regional Council - Film)

» **Showtools**  
[showtools.com](http://showtools.com)  
(crew/location/equipment hire)

» **Databook**  
[databook.co.nz](http://databook.co.nz)  
(crew/location/equipment hire)



# Contact

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