

OFF-ROAD RIDING AT COROMANDEL

A summary of places where mountain biking, BMX-ing and Dirt Track fun is found.

Thames

Hauraki Rail Trail- Already a popular trail. The easiest entry is from the car park at Kopu. (At the Thames side of the old Kopu Bridge.) Follows the river and is flat for the first 25 km. Coffee available at Matatoki Cheese factory 15km. Waikino is also a good place to enter. Full trail is a 3 day ride. Bike hire, food and old mining sites at Waikino.

Hotoritori MTB Trail- In the Kauaeranga Valley. This is an intermediate grade ride on 4 x 4 gravel tracks, native forest and pine forest tracks and streams. Entry is at forest gate beyond the campsite and you follow the trail signs in an anti-clockwise direction.

Moanataiara MTB Trail- Located up the Moanataiari Creek road on the northern side of Thames on DOC land, it is currently under development by the Thames Mountain Bike Club. Target is to have it open late January 2013.

Coromandel

Castle Rock Trail- to Te Rerenga. Mainly a 4 x 4 track through the forest. Entry is from the Coromandel end of 309 road at Castle Rock Rd... Follows the walking trail before sidling under large native trees and joining logging roads as it heads towards SH 25 about 500 m east of Whangapoua Beach Road. Distance is about 12 km. Take water and a spare tube. Full details at in Whitianga Bike Club trail guide. See our webpage.

Tairua and Whangamata

Broken Hill Recreation Reserve Track- This is an old gold mining area with tunnels to explore so a torch is a handy extra. Easiest entry is from SH 25 at Puketui Rd about 7 km before the Whangamata junction. Follow this road down to its end where the track begins. There will be walkers on it too so take care. It follows the Hikuai River and ends in farming and vineyard country. You travel down to the reserve access at Morrisons Rd and the school and old Hikuai township. About 11 km. You need to plan a pick up there as both Tairua and Pauanui are some distance away.

Whangamata Matariki Forest Trails Park. A trail map for the 5 new trails and the old trails in this area is available from Whangamata Pedal & Paddle 703 Port Rd. It is only a few dollars and helps the club continue with trail development. Bike Hire available.

Mercury Bay

Whitianga Bike Park offers about 3 hours riding at various grades. Full details are on the club web page. This bike park also has a BMX track, a PUMP track and a DIRT track BBQ picnic area a Skill Zone, toilet, drinking fountain and car parking. All free to use. see web page

Shakespeare Headland, Waitaia Beach and Rangihau Valley at Coroglen rides are on web