



### BIRD HIDE (13)

Jimmy Lee Creek features the bird hide which is perfect for both watching wildlife and photography. The gully corridors are home to a range of bird life including: weka, morepork, kereru, tui, bellbird, brown creeper, fantail (both pied and black), harrier, silvereye, blackbird, song thrush, California quail, yellowhammer, greenfinch, goldfinch, grey warbler, shinning cuckoo, chaffinch, dunnock, long tailed cuckoo. Other visitors: paradise duck, pheasant, kingfisher, New Zealand falcon.

### SCOUT TRACK (11)

In encouraging proficiency in the outdoors, the tradition of the local Scout group was to camp overnight in the upper reaches of Jimmy Lee Creek.

### MATAI GROVE & KAHIKATEA TREE (5) (8) (9) (10)

A side track leads to a grove of matai trees. On the side of the track you will encounter a matai with a circumference of 3.89m and standing deep in the grove is a fine fluted specimen with a circumference of 5.02m. Their age is unknown but 500 - 600 years is a good estimate. Matai trees can be recognised most easily from their bark: the bark has a 'hammered' appearance, flaking off showing the inner bark in vivid red patches. Among the native bush in Wills Gully stands a large kahikatea tree with a circumference of 2.28m.

### EARLY FARMING (4) (6) (12)

Traces of the early farming in the Richmond Hills is evident in the construction of dams. The remains of two small dams dating from early settler days can be viewed nearby the track in both valleys. The dam was said to have supplied water to Maurice Brown's farm. Water continues to be conveyed via the dam to serve nearby farms. Whilst, McGlashen's Dam in Wills Gully was built to provide water for McGlashen's market garden.

The Richmond Hills were grazed by sheep: wooden posts are met on the path, remnants of a vanished holding pen used for tailing and docking lambs.



### GRASSY SADDLE (7)

There are extensive views of Richmond and the Waimea Plains from Grassy Saddle. One of the areas where early crops of potatoes were cultivated in a frost free area and sent to markets in Wellington and Christchurch before the main crops from other centres became available.

### FROM SCULLERY TO SKULLS (3)

This site was a place where volunteers met for morning tea. In the process of weed clearance and track construction a number of skulls were found. The name speaks on two different levels.

### TWIN GUMS (2)

Follow the route of the Paper Road from the creek crossing to the Twin Gums. The Paper Road is a geographic marker, following an access route through the Richmond Hills, resulting from the original laying out of Richmond and extends to the top ridge. Bluegums were planted on the south side of the paper road.



### FOSSILS (1)

Outcrops of scallop-like shell fossils *Monotis richmondiana*, can be found in both valleys. They were first described by Hochstetter (1859). They are of the Triassic Period, Warepan stage, and are estimated to be 210 million years old.

### GENERAL

Walkers will observe a regenerating native ecosystem. The revegetation is a testament to years of volunteer involvement in the Richmond Hills.

A nationally vulnerable native fern, Annual Fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*), has been identified along a clay bank at Jimmy Lee Creek. The only native annual fern in New Zealand. It is unusual among the ferns as the mature plants die each summer and the new young plants appear around May, reaching maturity in August-September. It is a small fern with fronds 4-6 cm long.

**Other Wildlife:** The ground weta and the large trapdoor spider, freshwater crayfish (kōura) and eels, are less frequently seen, but sightings do occur. If you look around the damp banks at night there is a chance that you will see small lights twinkling back at you. Each of these blue-green pin points is a glow-worm.

### Explore Further

Richmond Hills is a network of walking tracks that link historic and natural areas of interest. Discover more of the Richmond Hills (Dellside Reserve) walking tracks: the entry points are at: Cropp Place, Easby Park, Lodestone Road, Valhalla Drive and Hill Street (Jimmy Lee Creek and Wills Gully).

### WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Richmond Hills host a significant conservation project focused on the restoration of the natural and cultural landscape. The Richmond Hills (Dellside Reserve) is administered by Tasman District Council. The remnant native bush valleys have been restored by a number of volunteer groups. This has included the clearing of pest weed species, the planting and maintenance of native plants, an extensive trapping programme to control pests, and the construction of the tracks.

If you are interested in lending a hand there are volunteer groups involved in maintenance, conservation and heritage protection programmes. If you would like more information please contact: Tasman District Council phone: 03 543 8400 or email: info@tasman.govt.nz



Please be aware that dogs are to be kept under control at all times. You are responsible for their behaviour and must dispose of their excrement.

**Do not interfere with the traps and bait stations these are placed to protect the bird life.**

**KEEP RICHMOND BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE**



© Copyright 2015  
Dr. K. Breen Rickerby



# RICHMOND HILLS

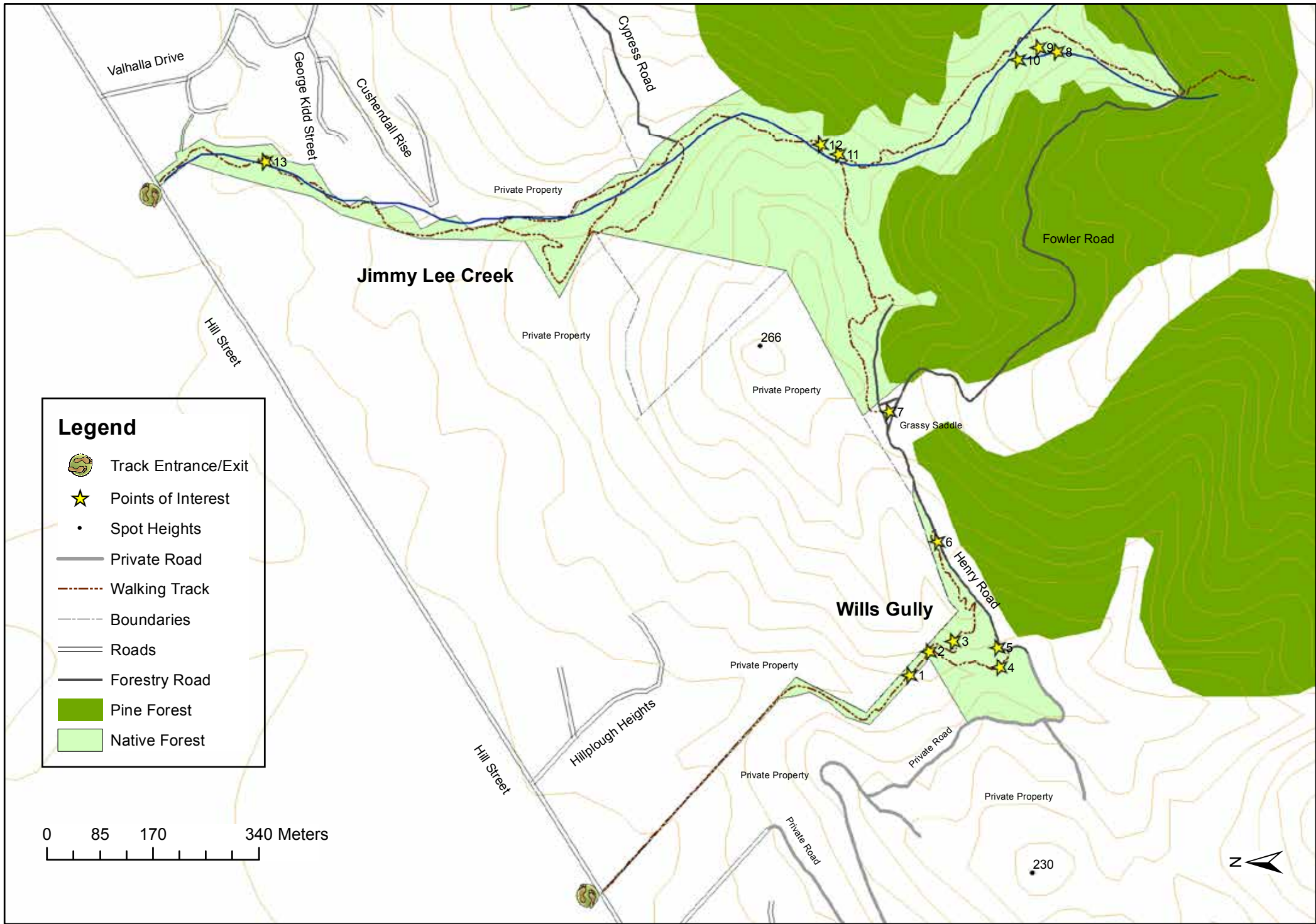
(DELLSIDE RESERVE)

## Jimmy Lee Creek & Wills Gully













**Wills Gully** starts towards the South end of Hill Street. You walk through a regenerating and mature native bush to the Top track and Lower track junction. Top track ascends to Grassy Saddle, providing panoramic views of Richmond and the Waimea Plains. From Grassy Saddle, there are two ways to return to Hill Street. To return the way you came, perhaps a loop walk via either Lower or Bottoms track, passing McGlashen's dam. The last option is to follow the descent down to Jimmy Lee Creek.

**Jimmy Lee Creek** track introduces walkers to a diversity of birdlife and native trees. The track passes a bird hide giving you an opportunity to watch feeding tui, silvereyes and bellbirds. Soon after passing an early settlers dam, the track branches to the left, climbing through a matai grove. The main track leads to Grassy Saddle. Walkers can retrace their steps or continue down Wills Gully, returning to Hill Street.



**Legend**

-  Track Entrance/Exit
-  Points of Interest
-  Spot Heights
-  Private Road
-  Walking Track
-  Boundaries
-  Roads
-  Forestry Road
-  Pine Forest
-  Native Forest

