



FOSSIL STEPS

The scallop-like shell fossils *Monotis richmondiana*, were first described by Hochstetter (1859). They are of the Triassic Period, Wairarapa stage, and are estimated to be 210 million years old. Outcrops of these appear from the Fossil Steps to the Twin Gums.

TWIN GUMS

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.

FROM SCULLERY TO SKULLS

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.



EARLY FARMING

Traces of early farming in the Richmond Hills is evident in the construction of dams. McGlashen's Dam was built to provide water for McGlashen's market garden which was lower downstream towards Hill Street. Water was conveyed via the outlet pipe that can be seen below.

KAHIKATEA TREE

Among the native bush stands a large kahikatea tree with a circumference of 2.28m.

SHEEP PENS

The Richmond Hills were grazed by sheep: wooden posts are met on the path, remnants of a vanished holding pen, built and used by the Hart brothers, (Archie, Jim and Wally) for tailing and docking lambs.

GRASSY SADDLE

There are extensive views of Richmond and the Waimea Plains from Grassy Saddle. This was 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.



GENERAL

Walkers will observe a regenerating native ecosystem. The revegetation is a testament to years of volunteer involvement in the Richmond Hills, with over 6500 native trees planted. The gully supports a variety of plants, initially lemonwood, kanuka, whiteywood and ake ake have been the main trees planted. As they became established, secondary species, including kowhai, beeches, coprosmas, have been added to the planting scheme.

BIRD LIFE

The gully corridor is home to a range of bird life including: weka, morepork, kereru, tui, bellbird, brown creeper, fantail (both pied and black), harrier, silvereye, California quail, grey warbler, shining cuckoo, chaffinch, dunnock, long tailed cuckoo, pheasant.

Other Wildlife: The ground weta and the large trapdoor spider, freshwater crayfish (kōuora) 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 and 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: 03543 8400 or email: info@tasman.govt.nz



To keep up-to-date visit www.willrickerby.com and Wills Gully on Facebook.

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



RICHMOND HILLS

(DELLSIDE RESERVE)

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 decent down to Jimmy Lee Creek.

Wills Gully

