

The K2K – Kaipara2Kaipara

This three day walk heads over hill-country farmland, through native bush and blocks of pine and across salt marsh wetlands. Along the way there are great views of the Kaipara hill country, the Hotoe River and the Kaipara Harbour. On day two the track climbs the 304 metre, bush clad, Mount Auckland (Atuanui).

The Kaipara2Kaipara has been organised by two local farming families and caters for a maximum of 10 walkers at a time throughout the summer season (October 1 – April 26). Our group of five had the last booking for the 2010/11 season and this did coincide with a marked deterioration in the weather. However, this did not dampen our spirits or our enjoyment of the walk – although it did mean that we were unable to tackle Mt Auckland.

We chose the fully catered option with pack transport - a cost of \$430 per person, which was great value. We arrived at the beautifully restored Mataia Homestead, just north of Kaukapakapa, on the evening before the walk started. A fine home-cooked meal awaited us and later we were briefed on the walk and issued with an excellent 'Guide to the K2K' (which was to prove a very useful guide to each day's walking).

The next morning our group was transported to the start of the walk near Kaipara Flats village. We tramped about 12 km on each of the following three days, stopping at 'The Hut' (which was simple but more than adequate) at the end of day one and at Kaipara Views Lodge at the end of the second day.

We ended our walk back at the Maitaia homestead where freshly cooked muffins and a hot shower awaited. This is certainly a well organised and interesting walk. There is plenty of hill work but the route is well marked and numbers along the way refer back to information in the guide booklet.

More details about this walk can be found on www.kaipara2kaipara.co.nz

Ron Pedder