

OTAGO TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

OTC / OTMC CENTENARY WEEKEND 2023



Pineapple Point - OTMC Centenary Lookout *Saturday morning, October 21 - 9am to 2pm (approx.)*

Pineapple Point is a prominent location adjacent to the current Pineapple Track which provides access from Glenleith to Flagstaff and beyond. The term 'Pineapple Point' predates the Otago Tramping Club, and is also referred to in regard to early club trips.

The inaugural OTC trip on September 1, 1923 visited Pineapple Point via the old Ross Bush Track (aka the 'Old Pineapple Track') on the way to the summit of Flagstaff.

In time the name Pineapple Point disappeared from common usage. In preparation for the 100 Trips for 100 Years project, the name 'Pineapple Point' popped up a few times, which led to research to establish the location. In 2019 the first OTC trip was recreated on the 96th anniversary of the original trip (as the OTMC celebrated the Tararua Tramping Club turning 100), and the proposal to develop a lookout at Pineapple Point was well received.

The club has worked with the Dunedin City Council to obtain the necessary permission, and over the past year have developed the site as a lookout. The view in 2019 was completely non-existent, with a tall wall of broom blocking what was once an impressive view.

The view has now been restored, and a seat and signage installed. An official opening was held by the club on September 1, 2023 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the inaugural Otago Tramping Club trip.

Pineapple Point - OTMC Centenary Lookout

Track Guide / Description

Pineapple Point is located to the east of Flagstaff, just below the 500m contour. It is adjacent to the current Pineapple Track, which is accessed from the corner of Fulton and Tanner Roads,

While the current Pineapple Track provides an excellent track surface, it is steep in places, and the total ascent is around 300m.

There are two main options available to get to Pineapple Point:

Option 1: Standard route via the current Pineapple Track. This is the standard way to access Flagstaff from Glenleith, and is very popular.

Starting from the corner of Fulton and Tanner Roads, the track follows the signposted Booth Road for a few metres before heading up a track under historic macrocarpa trees - this soon eases off, and sidles around to again meet up with Booth Road, which rises gently to the DCC water treatment station.

From here the true Pineapple Track starts, and it is an honest 200m climb to Pineapple Point. The track is steepish in places, but there is no rush to get up the hill. There is a grass clearing two-thirds of the way up, which provides good views towards Mt Cargill and over the city.

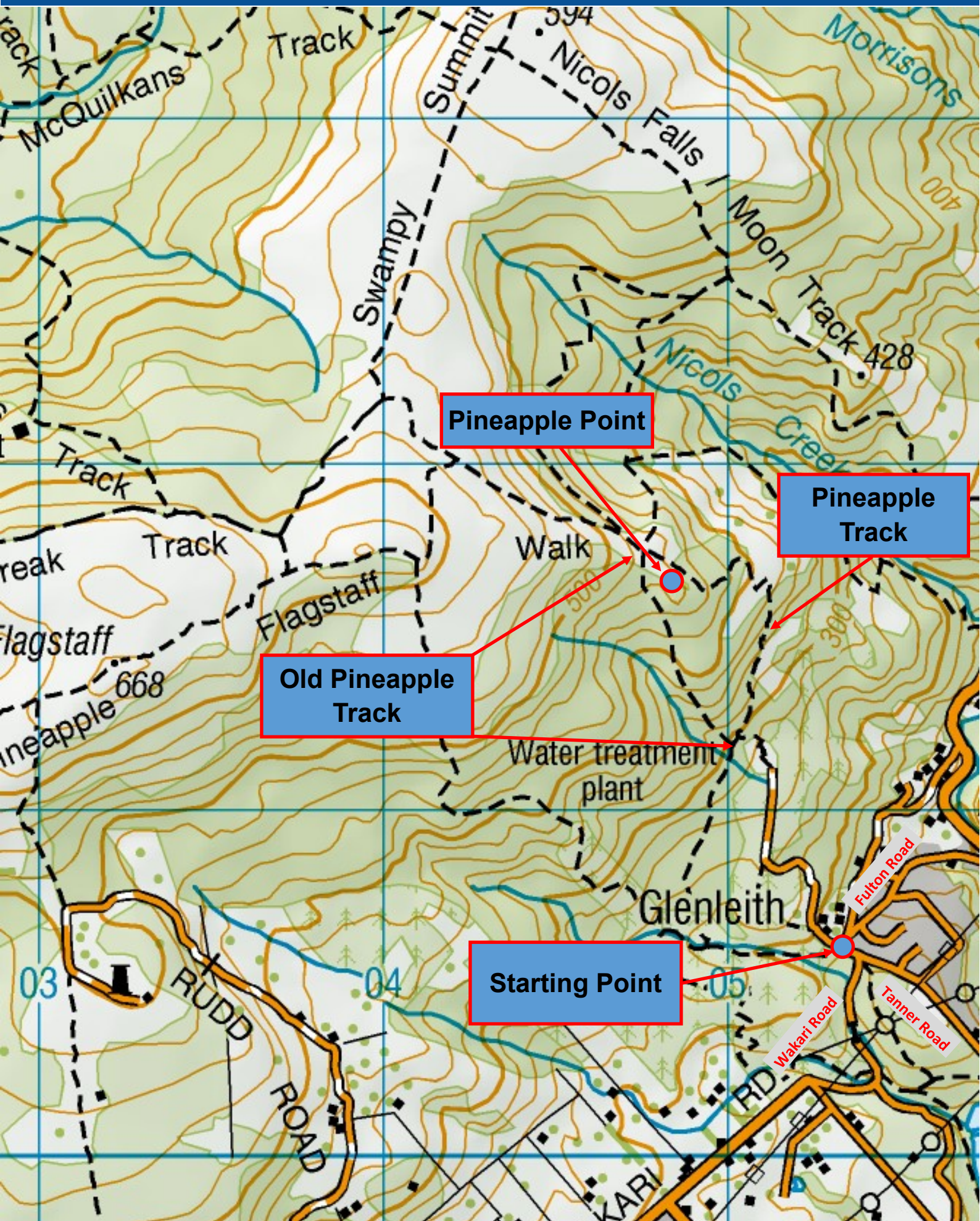
A shorter and gentler section brings you to the bushline, and a signposted side track to Pineapple Point is around 30m from the bush edge. It is only a minute or two from the Pineapple Track to the lookout.

An average walking time to Pineapple Point from the road would be around 60 minutes, but we won't be in a hurry.

Option 2: Historical route via the original Ross Bush Track. The Ross Bush track (original Pineapple Track) was the route used to access Flagstaff up to the mid-1970's, and still remains in use to this day. It is unmarked, but pretty easy to follow once you are on it. Being a bush track, it can be muddy in places, particularly nearer the top end.

The original lower section below the DCC water treatment station is lost, so this option will follow the Pineapple Track option to the water treatment station, before veering off to the original track behind the station. The track more or less follows a straight line up to Pineapple Point - after a few minutes it crosses the McGouns Track (provided by City Forest), before continuing to follow the true left hand bank of Ross Creek. Given the rougher track, it may take a bit longer than the standard route, and tramping boots are recommended.

Pineapple Point - OTMC Centenary Lookout Map



Pineapple Point - OTMC Centenary Lookout

Meeting Place / Parking

Over 100 people have indicated they will be joining us for the visit to Pineapple Point. While there is plenty of room at Pineapple Point, there is not a lot of close parking available at the corner of [Fulton and Tanner Roads](#) - the start of the Pineapple Track.

There are several options available to get to the start point, these are:

- Meet at 9am and carpool from the corner of [Duke Street & Malvern Street](#), next to the Woodhaugh Gardens. There is good parking available here at the weekend - most free parks are on the Woodhaugh Gardens side of the street. There is no charge to park here.

For the above option, we have arranged vehicle access to the DCC Water Treatment Station for a limited number of cars - this is the best option for those who will find the climb a challenge - it removes 100m of elevation, and walking will start at the Pineapple Track proper.

- For those who want to meet at the start of the walk, please try and park away from the corner of Fulton and Tanner Roads. There is parking available nearby at:
 - On Tanner Road, between Wakari Road and Glenholm St.
 - Further down Fulton Road (below Islay Street, and more parking below Glenmore St)
 - [Ross Creek Reservoir Forest Walk](#) carpark - this is 15-20 minute walk to the start point via the Ross Creek tracks.
 - [Redwood Loop Mountain Bike Track](#) carpark in Wakari Road - this is also a 15-20 minute walk to the starting point.
 - Park at Woodhaugh Gardens (same as the car-pool option) and walk up via Ross Creek (this is how the Old Pineapple Track was accessed in the early days). This option takes around 60 minutes, and traverses the wonderful track network around Ross Creek.
- Public transport: There is a [public bus service](#) from the Bus Hub (Great King St in the CBD) to Glenmore St (a 4 minute walk from the start of the Pineapple Track). Bus leaves Bus Hub C, take the #3 route for Ross Creek. The best departure would be the 9.15am bus, which should have you ready for walking by 9.33am.

We aim to start walking up to Pineapple Point at 10am, but feel free to start heading up when you arrive - it will be good to spread our group out, the area is a very popular walking and running location for the locals.

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General

The visit to Pineapple Point is a relatively short one, but feel free to join us for lunch, especially if it is a nice day. We aim to have everyone returned to the start of the track again by 2pm.

Good walking shoes are recommended if going up the main track, and if you want to walk in the footsteps of earlier members by using the Old Pineapple Track, then boots are better.

One of the appeals of Pineapple Point is that it allows a round trip by using the old and new Pineapple Tracks (and the newer McGouns Track, provided by City Forest between the starting point and the DCC Water Treatment Station).

I'm sure we don't need to remind OTC / OTMC members of the need for warm clothing.

We will have a first aid kit, with us, and the entire area is within coverage for mobile phone providers (One NZ, Spark & 2 Degrees).

We also intend to have 'club guides' along the way to ensure everyone keeps on track.

We will repeat the speech (informal as it was!) that was given at the time of the official opening of Pineapple Point on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the very first OTC Trip.

There is more information available on the [OTMC website for Pineapple Point](#).

