



Welcome to

Driving Creek Railway and Potteries

Barry Brickell started this inspiring project in 1973, eventually building 3km of tortuous narrow-gauge railway track over 22HA of hilly scrub-covered land. Barry had arrived in Coromandel, from Auckland, in 1961 to become New Zealand's first kiwi-born, fulltime handcraft-potter, but it wasn't until 1990 that Driving Creek Railway (DCR) opened to the public.

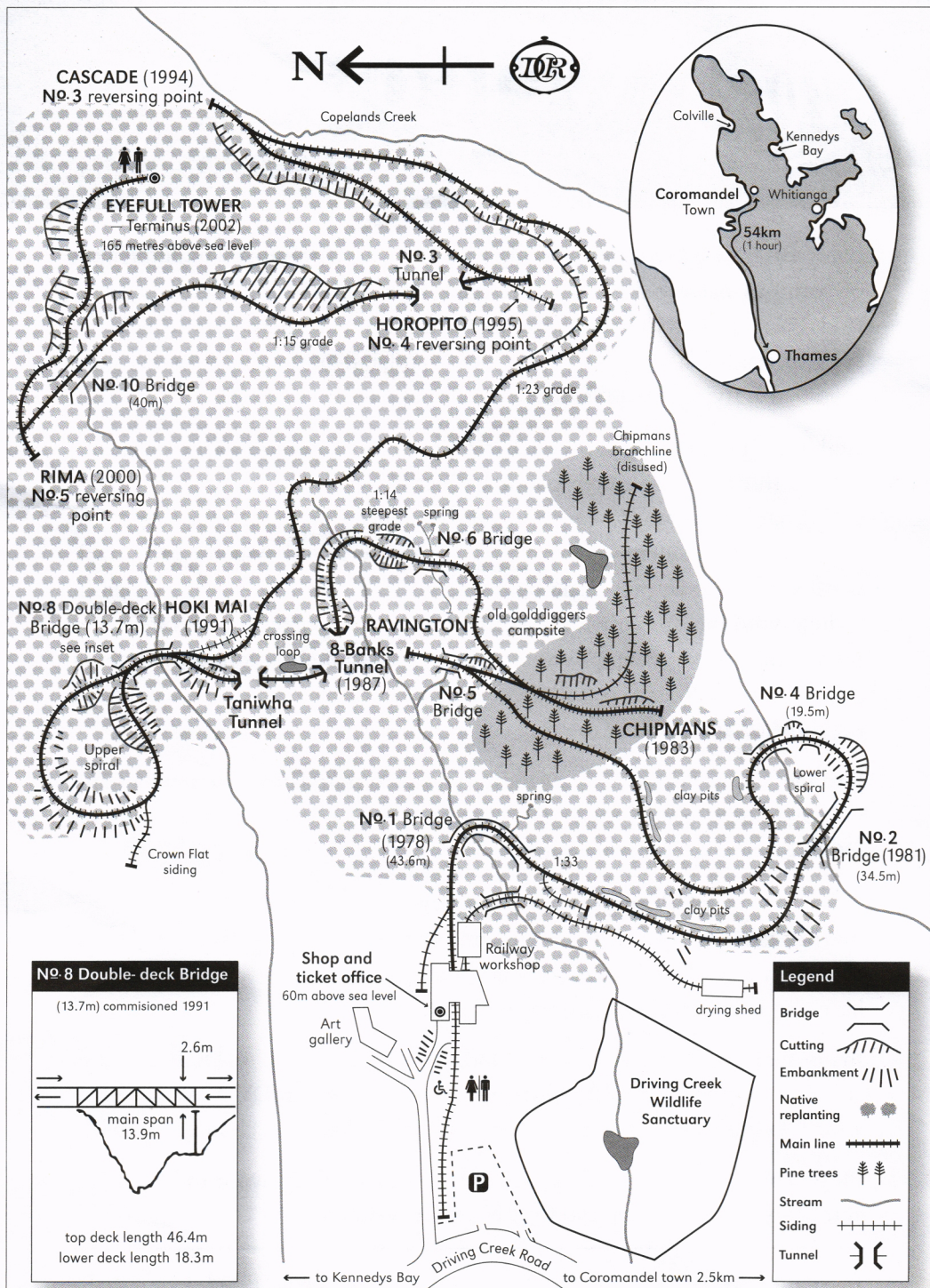
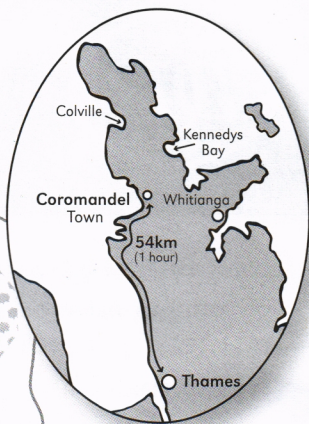
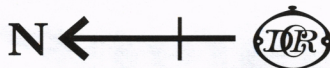
Building the railway from scratch required the daunting task of surveying a route through very rough country. Trial surveys were made with a hand slasher and home-made surveying instruments, this process having to be repeated until a suitably graded route could be found. Much of the track work you see today was done by hand, but local contractors were called in to help with major earthworks. Bridges / viaducts, three short tunnels, two spirals and five reversing points are required to gain elevation to the Eyefull Tower. The DCR drivers will give you an informative commentary during the journey and a talk at the top.

Driving Creek Potteries have studios and accommodation for resident and visiting potters from New Zealand Aotearoa and all over the world, although DCR is not a teaching institution.

Other major DCR projects includes native forest restoration—the train journey takes you past kauri, rimu and other native trees—all planted since 1973, a native wildlife sanctuary with predator-proof fence and an art gallery have also been established on the property.

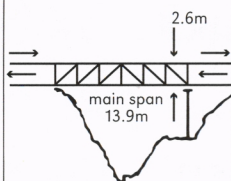
In our shop you will find interesting local crafts, information on DCR activities and the updated story of the Driving Creek Railway on DVD. We also have a small bookshop specialising in local history, ecology and children's books.

Please enjoy everything we have to offer, but most of all savour the train ride and enjoy the view from the Eyefull Tower terminus.



No. 8 Double-deck Bridge

(13.7m) commissioned 1991



top deck length 46.4m
lower deck length 18.3m

Note: map is not to scale. Length of main line is 3km.