



# Franklin Outdoor Magic

On the fringes of Franklin lies Karaka, famous for its lifestyle blocks and sumptuous country homes and the New Zealand Bloodstock sales complex, a magnet for buyers of superb horseflesh from all over the world.

The Miranda Shorebird Centre near Kaiaua is an incredible bird viewing internationally recognized site, a bird lover's paradise. The centre is staffed and has excellent displays and information on wading and migratory birds. Viewing is dependant on the tides as migratory birds come to the shellbanks at high tide. At other times they are out feeding on the mudflat.

A relaxing day spent at one of our local ARC parks offers a chance for a leisurely look at some beautiful spots. As well as Awhitu Regional Park, Franklin boasts Tapapakanga Regional Park, located just south of Oere Point, beside the Firth of Thames. Tapapakanga takes you back to the world of the early settlers with its isolated beachfront homestead and pohutukawa-fringed coast. As well as its rich Maori and European history this beautiful park offers rolling farmland, a winding stream, expansive coastal view and a good swimming beach.

