

FOXGLOVE CLEARING via DOOLEY'S HUT

260 Series Map: Kaimanawa, U19

Topo50 Map: BH36 Motutere

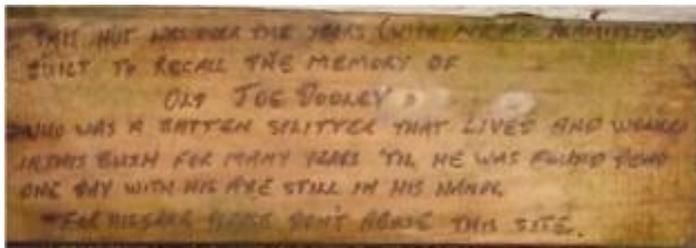
How to get to START: Exit Taupo on **SH5** for Napier.

- In about 25 minutes turn right into **Taharua Road** at 27.5km
- After 8 minutes again turn right (36.5km) into **Clements Mill Road** which quickly becomes gravel (36 min / 38.5km) and enters the forest
- After 10 minutes on this gravel road there is the **Te Iringa** car park on the left
- In 40 min (45.5km) pass over a **"White Bridge"**
- Continue another 7km on the gravel road
- Turn right and right again into car park (WP **FOX01**) in total drive time of 1:05 minutes and 52.3km
- Once parked, walk back to the gravel road and turn left

NB All times and distances are from the police station on the Domain in Taupo. An indication of the route to the start is the red line running on and turning off SH5 whilst the location of the tramp can be seen just above the sheet number U19 in the map opposite.

Rough description: A moderate walk of about 4 hours including rest and refreshment stops which is best attempted in the company of someone who knows the area and tracks. No amazing views but a great forest walk, several clearings filled with foxgloves in season and a look at a piece of local history – Dooley's Hut with a plaque in memory of old Joe Dooley, a "batten splitter" who lived and worked in the area for many years and actually died with his axe in his hand. The tramp is on underused, old or uncharted hunters' tracks through re-growth forest. The tracks are marked by paint splashes (orange, reddish, green and yellow) on the trees. Wind-falls can be a slight hazard or inconvenience on the walk, especially to the Hobbit-sized trumper, but there are not too many.

Plaque for Joe Dooley



There is an overall loss / gain of altitude of about 240 metres with altitudes varying from just under 700m at the car park to just over 900m at the lunch spot but the total ascent and descent is relatively large due to the rolling to hilly nature of the terrain. Although there is a fair amount of ascending and descending through the rolling terrain of the tramp there is no really taxing ascent. GPS records indicate a walk length in the order of 7km.

Detail: Once parked in the small car park (WP **FOX1** 687masl) near the end of Clements Mill Road walk back to the gravel road, turn to the left for about 2 minutes, passing over a gurgling stream line and immediately turn right off the road into the forest on a small, not too well marked track (**FOX2** 683masl) – this section is relatively easy to follow as it runs parallel to a deeply incised, heavily forested stream line on the right, but keep a look out for paint spots on the trees. Pass through a small depression or valley after about 18-20 minutes.

Dooley's Hut (**FOX3** 735masl) is reached within 20 - 30 minutes from the car park; Joe Dooley used to park his transport on the road where the track started. The hut is open and can be entered and there are the usual signs requesting respect is shown to the place and surroundings. A short walk from the hut takes one to the "facilities" – this was probably one of the few bush toilets with a seat and protection from the rain. The hut is rather dilapidated but still functional with 4 bunks but the water supply, piped from the nearby stream, is no longer operational.

The trail continues by going round behind the hut and heading more or less S, there are paint marks on the trees but these are not that easy to follow so keep the eyes open. There are some magnificent beech trees to be seen. At about 35 minutes total time there is a Y-fork (**FOX4** 749masl) in the trail – go left. In another five minutes there is a small gully (**FOX5** 759masl) with quite clear paint marks on the trees indicating the path going upslope to the right and the marks get pretty vague after this.

There is a short, relatively steep descent down and through a stream line after about 1 hour (**FOX6** 775masl) and the first clearing (**FOX7** 788masl) with foxgloves is arrived at 5 minutes after this.

Fifteen or twenty minutes later the second and third clearings are reached with more and more flowers in each clearing – the path between these is relatively well marked and slightly steep on undulating to rolling terrain. The main foxglove clearing (**FOX10** 818masl) is a steep sided valley which is reached after about 1:35 walking. Once in the clearing walk up-valley and at the top head in a SE direction (your right) up over a saddle on to a ridge – this section of track is not marked so just go by direction and by staying on the ridge disregarding markers going left. After a few minutes the paint marks do reappear and the route swings round till you are ascending in a SW direction and then in a WSW to W along the ridge to a small valley (**FOX11** 852masl) in roughly 2:15 minutes. This small valley has a huge dead tree lying in it. Continuing on and upwards in this WSW direction for another 15 minutes reaches a high point where there is a T-junction and several paint marks etc on the trees (**FOX12** 915masl).

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

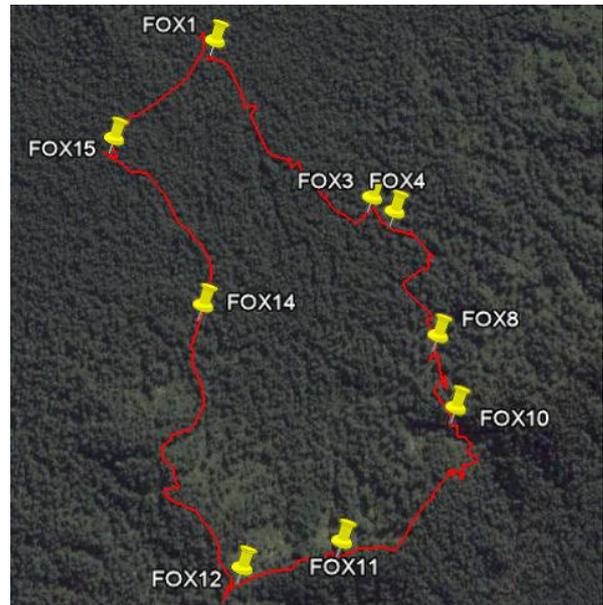
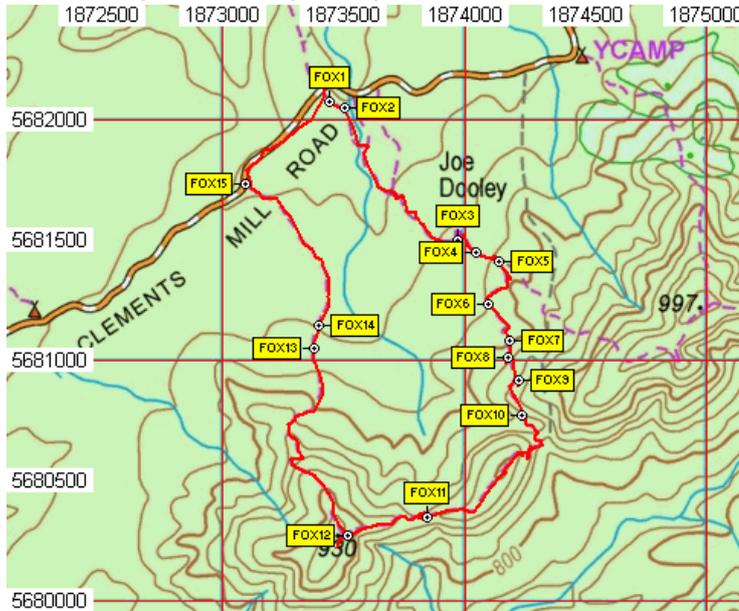
Access



Dooley's Hut interior



Map NZTM grid and Google Image with GPS Data

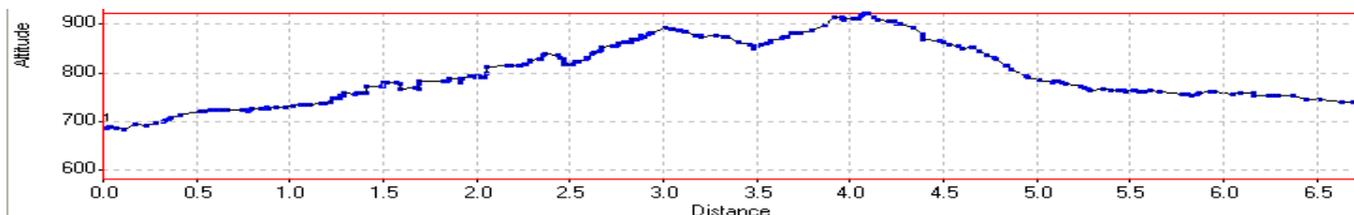


Waypoints NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
FOX1	2783419	6244126	687	Car park on RHS of Clements Mill Road 1 hour from Taupo
FOX2	2783480	6244099	683	Exit car park, turn left for 2 mins and turn right (FOX2) onto track when gurgling creek heard
FOX3	2783950	6243550	735	Dooley's Hut, 28 mins walking on undulating track. Pass behind hut and head +/- due South
FOX4	2784025	6243499	749	Y-fork on orange marked trail at 35 minutes. Go left
FOX5	2784117	6243463	759	Minor gully at 40 minutes with visible marks going right after passing through gully, now poor marks
FOX6	2784071	6243290	775	Steepish descent to cross stream line at 1 hour, reasonable marks
FOX7	2784162	6243138	788	First clearing with foxgloves at 1:05 minutes, small clearing
FOX8	2784158	6243069	790	Second clearing at 1:20mins, larger and quite steep slopes
FOX9	2784198	6242970	817	Third clearing at 1:25 minutes
FOX10	2784209	6242826	818	Main Foxglove clearing at 1:35 in steep sided valley. Go up valley bearing right onto saddle / ridge
FOX11	2783821	6242402	852	Yellow and green markers SW then WSW to W along ridge to small valley (FOX11)
FOX12	2783493	6242328	915	2:35 min, high point with T-junction and several marks, head NW on fair path with many marks
FOX13	2783357	6243104	780	Heading downhill in open woodland with many ferns at 3:30min
FOX14	2783371	6243200	771	Path joins from RHS (watch if going out this way) at 3:35 min
FOX15	2783070	6243789	758	Clements Mill Road at 3:50 opposite car chassis across road, also water hole to the left. Go right

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1873431	5681802
1873492	5681775
1873962	5681227
1874038	5681175
1874129	5681140
1874084	5680966
1874175	5680814
1874171	5680745
1874211	5680646
1874223	5680502
1873834	5680077
1873506	5680003
1873369	5680779
1873384	5680875
1873081	5681465



Mauve species



This is decision time as well as lunchtime after about 2:35 minutes total walk time. The route straight ahead (not covered in this account) goes to near the toilets at the end of Clements Mill Road but there is a section of this track that lacks clear markers. The route followed in this account is the path to the right which goes in a NW direction on a pretty clearly marked track. There is an area of open woodland with large ferns as ground cover to descend through at 3:30 minutes (FOX13 780masl) and five minutes later another track joins from the right (FOX14 771masl) – this point is important if the walk is done in reverse when one must go to the right. Clements Mill Road is reached in a fraction under 4 hours (FOX15 758masl) at a point where there is an old car chassis to be found in the bush on the opposite side of the road and if a turn to the left were made a “waterhole” exists. By walking 10 minutes to the right the starting car park is arrived at.

White species



Notes:

- GPS Garmin Summit
- WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- masl = metres above sea level