

HOROPITO via Mangaturuturu

Topo50 Map: **BJ34 Mnt Ruapehu**

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo southwards on **SH1** to Turangi

- From Turangi there is a choice of two routes but the aim is to get on to SH 47 heading for Whakapapa
- The map opposite shows going via **SH1** and turning right on to **SH46** passing Lake Rotoaira then left on to **SH47**
- Pass the turn off to Whakapapa at 95km in 1:10min
- Turn left on to **SH 4** at National Park in 1:30min and 104km
- Turn off **SH49** left for Ohakune at 129km in 1:45 min
- Enter Ohakune in 1:50 min, cross the bridge then turn left into Ayr Street at 137km (Second road on left on entering town)
- Go left at mini-roundabout to Goldfinch Street then under the bridge
- Convenient public toilets on the left at 140km
- Continue up Ohakune Mountain Road through several gates and park (**01**) on the left at edge of road at the Round-the-Mountain track sign at 155km and 2:15 min from Taupo

Distances are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route is shown as the thicker red line on

Rough description: A walk of two distinct halves of about 5 hours to 5:30 minutes on a pretty rough track in places, especially near the start of the tramp down into the first valley.

The first half offers fantastic views of Ruapehu etc plus the cascades down which you traverse on a steep, tricky rock ladder – but even the less agile fitted with bionic parts can negotiate this section with patience from other trampers. See the Lake Surprise description. The second half can be a bit daunting as it is all within darkish, wet forest or on wet boggy tussock land where feet wetting is almost guaranteed.

The Mangaturuturu Hut (**10^{1249masl}**) is reached within 1:30 to 2 hours; this makes a good lunch spot and there are foot-wetting possibilities crossing some of the streams getting this far. The notice board at the hut advises that the walk out to Horopito is 2 – 3 hours; this is true! It is essential that transport with a driver is available as the drop-off is on the Ohakune Mountain Road whilst the pickup is in the forest NE of Horopito – a permit for access to the pick-up can be obtained from DOC in Ohakune. Refer to the map later for detail.

Detail: The access route is as described above and takes about 2:15 – 2:30 minutes from the car park on the Domain in Taupo to reach the point on the Ohakune Mountain road where the “Round-the-Mountain track crosses – waypoint H01 **1506masl**.”

The Exciting Half: From the side of the track (**01^{1249masl}**) information board go down into the valley in a NE direction on a diagonal path which is a bit steep and is very rough and covered in gravel, stones and boulders.

Pass through the valley then ascend the well-marked poled track heading more or less N, this track is eroded and has old steps formed by DOC anti erosion boards.

In 15 to 20 minutes there is a crest on a minor ridge (**02^{1529masl}**) with excellent views of the mountain and Lake Surprise to the NW. The next section down slope is a bit rough. Within 30 – 35 minutes of starting the walk the path bears left down-stream (**03^{1459masl}**) above the cascading waterfall.

The rock ladder down the side of the cascade starts after 40 minutes (**04^{1409masl}**) so ensure your boots are dry before beginning the descent as some of the rocks can be slippery – allow about 10-15 minutes to get down the ladder including crossing the sparkling, silvery-looking stream line half way down. At the bottom of the ladder (**05^{1340masl}**) the path improves and easy walking ensues for a bit giving some respite. After about 1 hour to 1:10minutes look ahead for a large rock with a cairn on top and branch off the path to the right (**06^{1315masl}**). There is an inscription on the rock for a Horace Arthur Hole who was drowned in the area on 27th May 1927(**07^{1306masl}**).



BLUE road access to start **GREEN** exit road **RED** Tramp

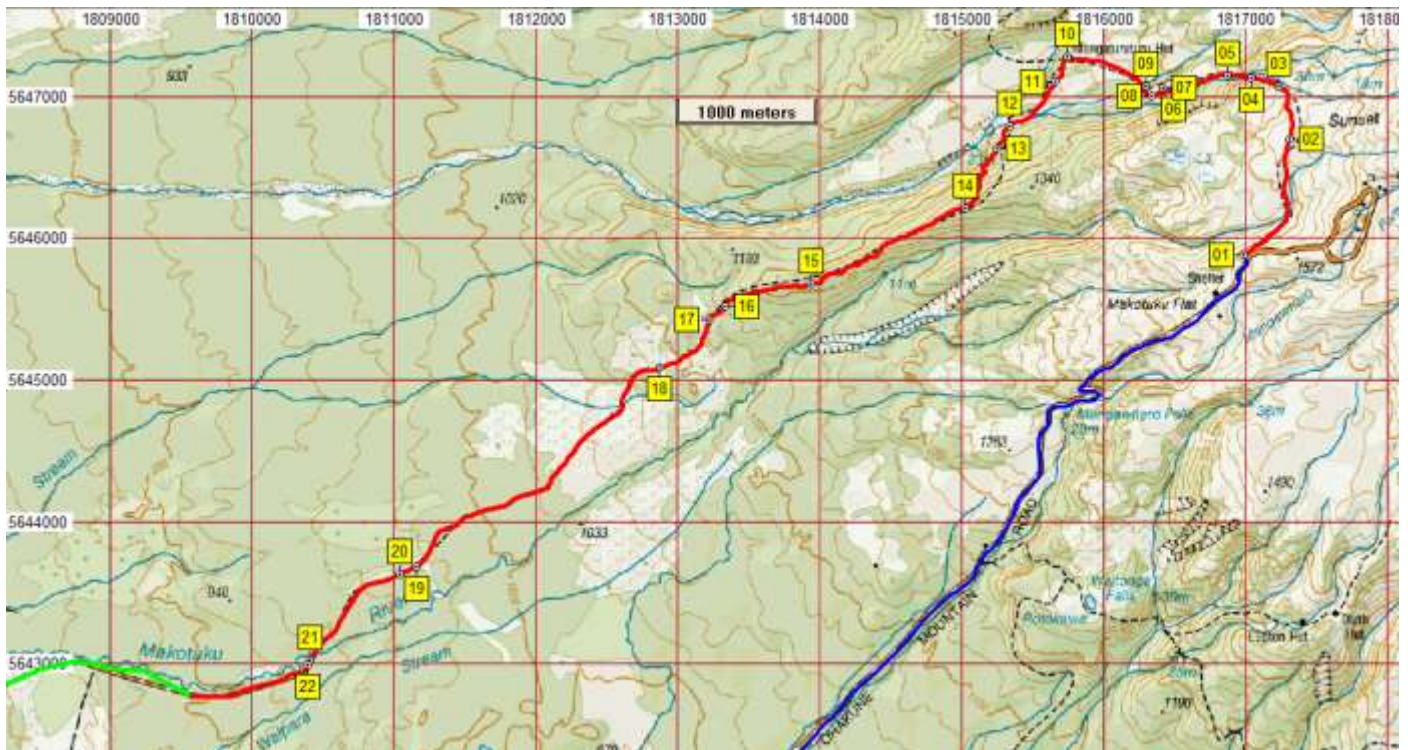
Lake Surprise and Mangaturuturu Hut



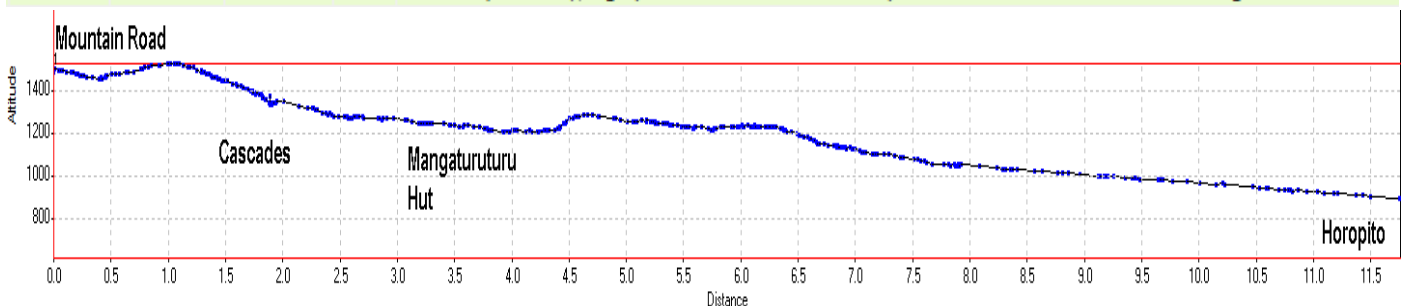
View is NNW from near the car park (Waypoint01), over the Mangaturuturu Valley with Lake Surprise showing just left of centre in the upper part of the photo whilst the Mangaturuturu Hut (Waypoint10) can be seen as a light spot in the forest just right of centre in the lower half of the picture

Top of the ladder





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1816993	5645879	1506	Round the mountain car park on Ohakune Road 2 - 2:30 from Taupo
02	1817313	5646702	1529	15mins (1km); on minor ridge up poled eroded track
03	1817239	5647073	1459	30min (1.43km); path turns left (NW) above cascades
04	1817038	5647133	1409	40min (1.69km); start of the rock ladder down cascades
05	1816871	5647148	1340	50min (1.89km); bottom of rock ladder below cascades
06	1816490	5647058	1315	1:10min (2.3km); right off path towards cairn on old path
07	1816421	5647068	1306	1:13min (2.41km); Horace Arthur Hole memorial on rock
08	1816339	5647002	1282	1:15min (2.48km); track bears right at sign for Mangaturuturu Hut
09	1816300	5647075	1270	1:20min (2.6km); river crossing of deeply incised valley - tricky
10	1815748	5647283	1249	1:30min (3.25km); Wanganui Club's Mangaturuturu Hut, left into wet silver beech forest
11	1815659	5647105	1241	1:40min (3.47km); into open, skirt woods on right then parallel to river
12	1815335	5646797	1205	1:45min (3.94km); ford river, up steep slope then boardwalk into mixed wet forest
13	1815249	5646630	1213	1:55min (4.15km); 2-3 streams plus landslip area, muddy and start ascending at 2 hours
14	1815023	5646213	1288	2:15min (4.70km); on top of ridge in wet beech forest
15	1813941	5645682	1230	2:35min (5.99km); lunch stop on undulating, descending ridge in wet forest
16	1813329	5645519	1150	3:10min (6.69km); very eroded path, care required getting to lower level
17	1813225	5645423	1138	3:25min (6.86km); boardwalk, very wet tussock area, diverge from mapped path but following poles
18	1812868	5645096	1090	3:40min (7.39km); still wet tussock area, more boardwalk then high bush
19	1811163	5643685	977	4:35min (9.77km); dry gravel path
20	1811035	5643638	973	4:40min (9.89km); concrete blocks etc marking site of old sawmill
21	1810414	5643031	927	4:50min (10.82km); ford river allowing last boot cleaning
22	1810393	5642995	931	4:55min (10.94km); sign plus barrier & where transport can reach or 800m more walking



The path bears right (**08** 1282masl) in 1:15 minutes where there is a sign for the Mangaturuturu Hut after descending through a narrow steep sided valley. Pass through some sparse woodland then arrive at a deeply incised river (**09** 1270masl) with a crossing that can lead to wet feet or an early bath for the unwary. The Mangaturuturu Hut (**H10** 1249masl) is reached in 1:30 – 1:45 hours' total walking time. This non-DOC hut belongs to Wanganui Tramping Club and has its 50th anniversary of opening in March 2008. The hut has a wood burner, sleeping bunks for 5 or 6 and there is a lovely stone bench outside for a lunch picnic stop.

The inscription



UHorace Arthur Hole drowned U27th May 1927U

Hut interior



The Mucky Half: On leaving the hut indicators of what is in store soon come in the wet, mossy silver beech forest with several incised small streams. Within 10 minutes there is an open area which skirts some woods on the right and the path is then parallel to the river. The river is then forded (**12^{1205masl}**) in total time of 1:45 minutes and, after crossing, a short steep lower slope leads on to a boardwalk.

The long way out



This boardwalk leads into more wet, mixed forest with a few incised stream crossings, over a landslip area (**13^{1213masl}**), mud, more stream lines and then climbs quite steeply upwards for 15 minutes or so. At the top (**14^{1288masl}**) the ridge is followed in a SW direction for the best part of an hour. The descent from the ridge is undulating and not really steep apart from the lower, very eroded part. More or less level ground (**16^{1150masl}**) is reached within about 3 hours' total walking time; the term "more or less" is offered to cover the fact that the route now ploughs over or through a very swampy area of tussock grassland.

There are sections of boardwalk in places but often even this is under the water or muddy suspension surface. Much weaving about is needed to get through the bush but, even then, many feet-wetting, boot-sucking holes are located by most trampers.

At about 3:30 minutes the GPS trace shows a diversion away from the mapped track (**17^{1138masl}**). The route followed is still marked by the orange flagged poles and this divergence lasts for about an hour. Respite from the wet stuff arrives after about 4:30 minutes' total walking time when a gravel path or track is arrived at (**19^{977masl}**).

Five minutes later there are some artifacts indicating the site of an old sawmill (**20^{973masl}**) which was used when this area was logged. Ten minutes further on a small stream or river (**21^{927masl}**) is forded giving a last chance to clean some of the muck off the boots and the signboards indicating the track end (**22^{931masl}**) are reached in something like 5 hours' total walking time. All being well transport should pick you up here but be prepared to walk on if the driver has not been well briefed and supplied with clear instructions of where to go. Refer below to the pick-up notes and map.

End of the trail

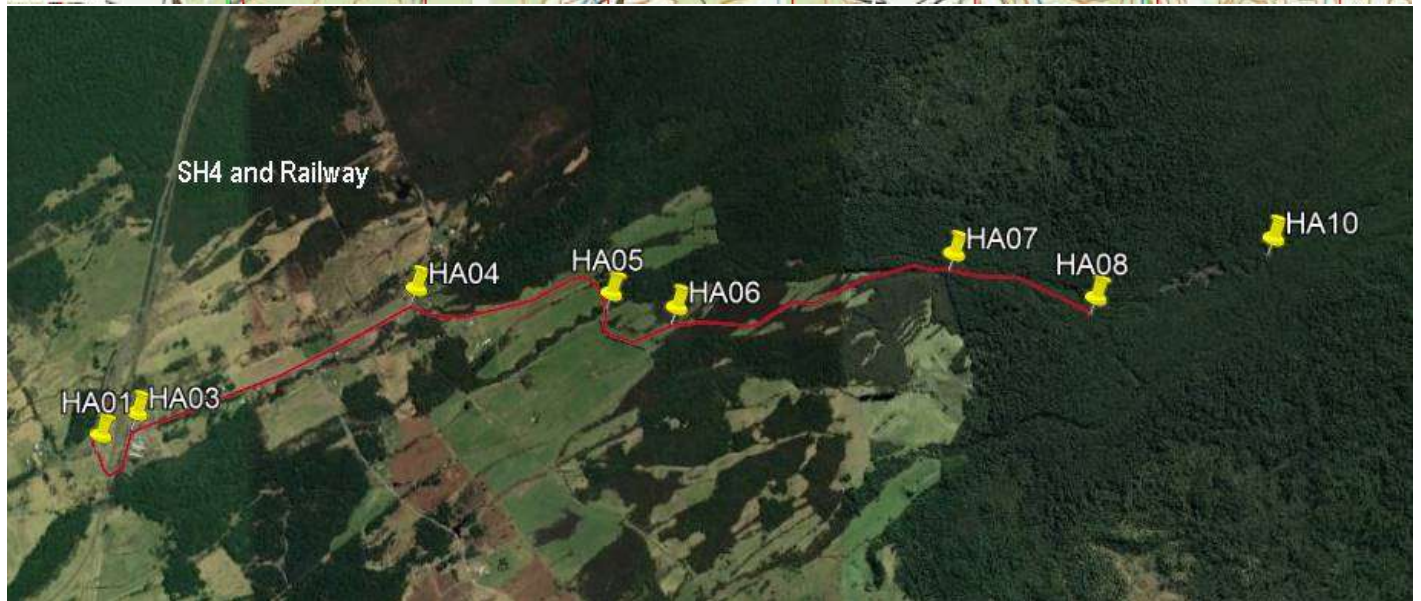


Private land has to be accessed in order to pick up the party at the SW end of this tramp and a permit must be obtained from the DOC office in Ohakune on the way to drop the party on Mountain Road. The DOC office is across the road from the public toilets which are on the left just after passing under the railway line on Ohakune Mountain Road.

Basically one turns eastwards off the road from National Park to Ohakune at Horopito then gets on to the gated, gravel road heading ENE at Lahar Farm on Matapuna Road. There are three gates to pass through so ensure these are closed after passing through. The important turn is at waypoint **HA08** and it is obvious one is at the correct pick-up point as there is a notice indicating the "Horopito Track". If you go right at this Y-fork there is a car park and campsite but no notices.



Route from Horopito on SH49 to pick-up point off Matapuna Road



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
HA01	1804798	5642239	752	Coming from National Park turn left off SH4 at Horopito
HA02	1804874	5642118	755	Cross railway in area of car graveyard
HA03	1804974	5642340	759	Bend in road at end of car graveyard to head NE
HA04	1806339	5642898	793	At about 1.5km on gravel road at Lahar Farm turn to gated access road (Permit required)
HA05	1807274	5642848	816	Gate on Access road just before bridge
HA06	1807583	5642772	824	gate with good mountain view in deer / sheep paddock
HA07	1808910	5642987	869	Gate at Y-fork with "private" road clearly marked so go left
HA08	1809573	5642759	896	Y-fork, go left. Right goes to campsite
HA09	1810097	5642855	917	T-junction, left goes to river so go straight ahead
HA10	1810413	5643013	931	Sign for Horopito Track so park here

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