

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

- In Turangi turn off SH1 to SH41 on the right and then turn left to SH47
- Pass SH46 from Rangipo on the left, then
- Left on to SH48 for Whakapapa
- Park in the car park with toilets opposite the Chateau

**Rough description:** Some confusion about the name Mangahuia / Mahuia does exist as older maps and sign boards show Mahuia whilst the newer maps have it as Mangahuia – which is the name of the stream that runs through the campsite. On paper this appears to be an easy walk of about 14km with little or no hill work involved but be prepared for a lot of heavy work and very wet feet. Also, it should be recognised that the crossing of the Mangahuia Stream 5km N of the campsite is not easy and can be downright dangerous in wet weather. If the weather has been or is about to be wet then advice would be to do this tramp in reverse; that is from the campsite to Whakapapa. This way if the stream is not safe to cross it is much less distance if steps have to be retraced.

The track has been upgraded to tourist grade highway from Whakapapa (**WP01**) to the junction for Silica Rapids at **WP06** but south of this junction it is a real back-country, rough track with many stream, often partially gullied, crossings and south of the junction at **WP15** it can be more like the everglades as the track is very often flooded.

**Detail:** Exit the car park (**WP01**<sup>1122masl</sup>) and head uphill on Bruce Road leaving The Chateau on the left and behind then pass the entrance to Whakapapa Lodge turning right in to the next small car park area where there are several track information signs. The track leaves at the lower end of here and almost immediately crosses the bridge over the Whakapapanui Stream (**WP02**<sup>1132masl</sup>). Within 10 minutes or so pass the junction for the Whakapapanui Track which goes off right (**WP03**<sup>1125masl</sup>). Much of this section used to be a bit rough but as of 2012 it was a well-manicured tourist track and the bridges are wide (**WPs4** and **5**) with the latter being over the Waikare Stream with the Golden Rapids. One minute later go right at the junction (**WP06**<sup>1163masl</sup>) or straight ahead if a look at Silica rapids is wanted – less than an hour return.

The track immediately becomes back-country standard and is rough with several stream crossings to negotiate – and some of these are quite tricky as they are eroded and well named; such as Slippery Gully (**WP12**<sup>1150masl</sup>) which is crossed after about 4km and 1:15 minutes.

#### Whakapapaiti Bridge



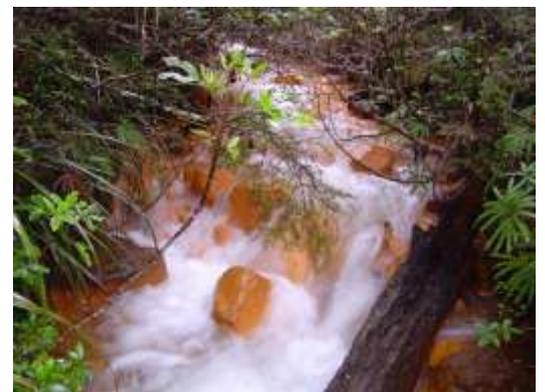
About half an hour later after crossing a wooden bridge (**WP13**<sup>1124masl</sup>) a section of boardwalk offers some relief before the descent to the Whakapapaiti starts – some bits of this are also a bit rough, steep and slippery. Within 2 hours and 6km the bridge (**WP14**<sup>1129masl</sup>) over the river is reached and on a good day this makes a pleasant place for a refreshment stop.

If the walk has not been enjoyed up to this point then turn round and go back as the real fun now starts but is recommended for experienced trampers only – especially in the wet. Even on a wet day this point can be reached with dry feet but the feet cannot remain dry for much of the next section which could be described as one of the longest bogs in the National Park being much like the old track from Mangaturuturu Hut out to the “Crash Palace”. There is a bit of ascending to do but slopes are generally gentle but wetness rules. There is a distinct bend in the track at **WP16**<sup>1151masl</sup> where there are old wooden signboards at a junction with a choice of going to Old Baldie (Hauhungatahi) or heading to the NW and Mangahuia – the old signs actually warn that because of the “wilderness” status there are no marked tracks to follow if heading to Old Baldie. Continuing the bog-hopping routine to the NW soon reveals a few slopes as the descent to the Mangahuia Stream appear with one fairly incised stream line to cross (**WP17**<sup>1056masl</sup>) 5 or 6 minutes before the main stream.

#### Access & location



#### Golden Rapids

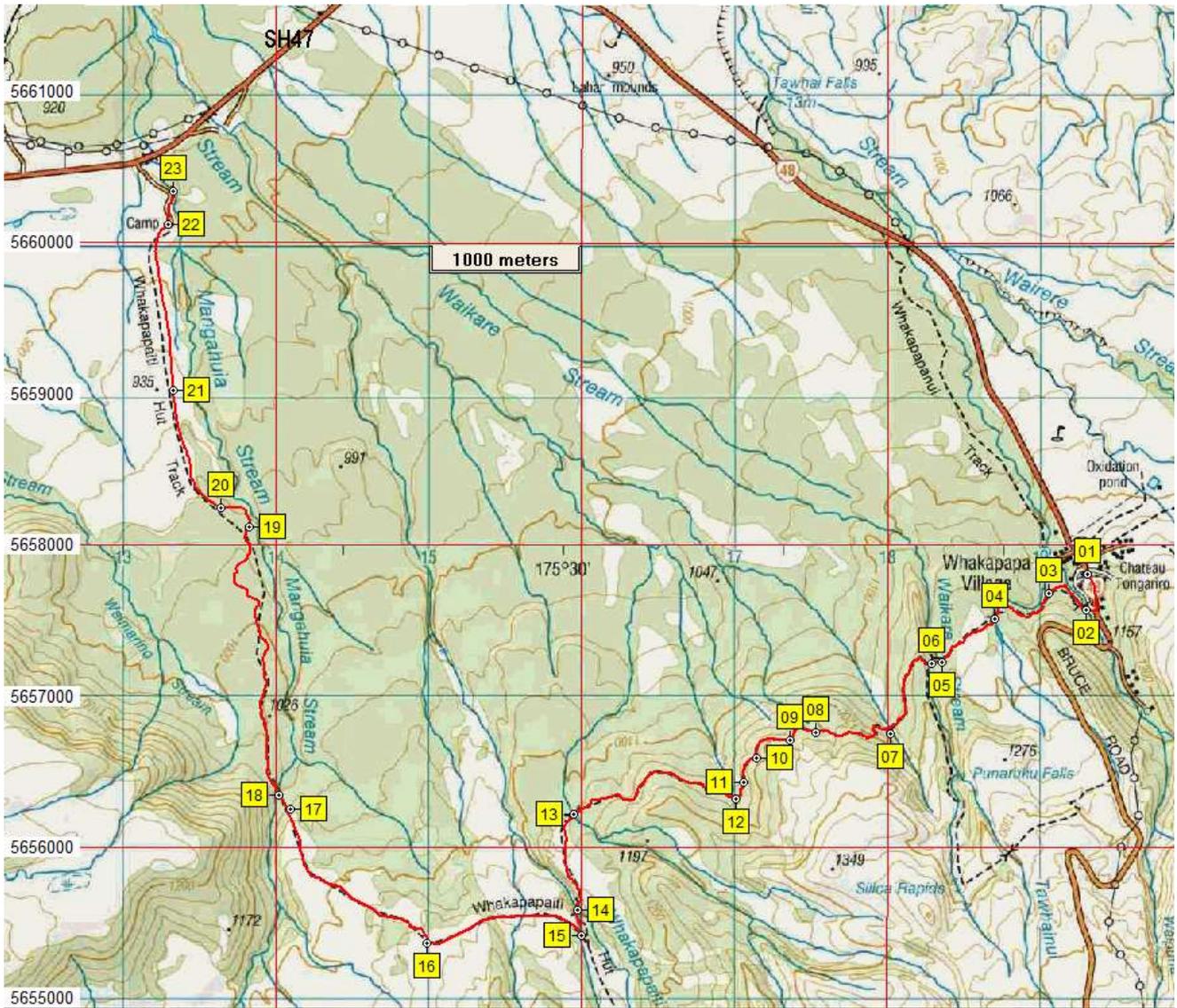


#### The track south of WP16



#### Old junction for Old Baldie







Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1819308	5657808	1122	Car park in Whakapapa opposite Chateau
02	1819303	5657576	1132	7min (0.4km); bridge over Whakapapanui Stream
03	1819060	5657682	1125	12min (0.7km); track junction with Whakapapanui Stream track off right
04	1818703	5657512	1152	19min (1.2km); bridge
05	1818354	5657228	1159	26min (1.7km); bridge at Golden rapids on Waikare Stream
06	1818296	5657219	1163	27min (1.8km); junction with Silica Rapids track straight ahead and Whakapapaiti route to the right
07	1818020	5656758	1150	38min (2.4km); crossing of fairly large eroded valley / gully
08	1817527	5656764	1194	57min (3km); gully crossing
09	1817357	5656711	1193	1:02min (3.3km); streamline crossing
10	1817144	5656593	1176	1:08min (3.5km); another stream line crossing
11	1817061	5656431	1167	1:12min (3.8km); streamline crossing
12	1817010	5656321	1150	1:15min (3.9km); Slippery Gully crossing
13	1815951	5656215	1124	1:49min (5.2km); bridge over stream then on to boardwalk before descendig to Whakapapaiti Stream
14	1815974	5655588	1129	2:02min (5.9km); bridge over Whakapapaiti Stream
15	1816003	5655417	1151	2:07min (6.1km); junction with Mangahua Track off right in to flooded area with deep ponds
16	1814986	5655363	1151	2:29min (7.2km); junction for old signposted track to Old Baldie (Hauhungatahi) go NW for Mahuia
17	1814101	5656254	1056	2:55min (8.6km); small incised stream line with fairly steep slopes
18	1814015	5656353	1024	3:02min (8.7km); Mangahua Stream crossing, tricky when water level up
19	1813820	5658117	964	3:48min (10.8km); south end of boardwalk section in very boggy area
20	1813639	5658244	957	3:54min (11.1km); small stream crossing in mixed tree and shrub area
21	1813329	5659024	933	4:06min (12km); north end of long boardwalk in wetland area
22	1813292	5660120	892	4:21min (13.1km); leave gravel road and go on small track for minutes to reach car park
23	1813327	5660345	884	4:25min (13.4km); car park with toilet and DOC shelter at Mangahua campsite

In dry weather with low stream flow the Mangahua Stream (WP18<sup>1024masl</sup>) is easy to cross but if it is wet it can prove quite difficult as the crossing point is at a confluence and, in this area, rainfall does not seem to infiltrate to the soil and high run-off occurs quickly building up the water level. However by using sensible river crossing techniques it can be safely negotiated but wet feet are guaranteed. After crossing it is only 5km or so to the campsite but be warned it can feel like the Everglades with very swampy conditions – there may not be any alligators but there are hazards, such as deep holes in the middle of the pond one is wading through.

Wet feet guaranteed



At around 10km (WP19<sup>964masl</sup>) there is a very welcome section of boardwalk, but it can be treacherously slippery, whilst around 12km there is yet more boardwalk. After this the track slowly improves until one is again walking on terra firma and quite soon the gravel road is reached which means the campsite and car park (WP23<sup>885masl</sup>) are just ahead.

This is the track

The Everglades



**Notes:**

- **GPS** Garmin GPSMap 60CSx
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level