

KEROSENE CAN KNOB

260 Series Map: Kaimanawa, U19

Topo50 Map: BH36 Motutere, BH37 Rangitaiki

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

- In about 20 – 25 minutes turn right into **Taharua Road**
- After another 7– 8 minutes turn right into **Clements Mill Road** which quickly becomes gravel and enters the forest.
- 10 minutes on this gravel pass **Te Iringa** car park on the left, and
- 2km further on come to a **“White Bridge”** – wooden and pale coloured. There is a turn-off to the right just before the bridge with a small car park and toilet. Park here (**KCK1**) which is directly above the Pirua waterfall.

Once parked, walk back to the gravel road from the car park and turn right over the bridge and along the road.

Rough description: A moderate walk of 5 to 5:30 hours which is best attempted in the company of someone who knows the area and tracks or, better still, have the track loaded in a GPS and use it. No amazing views but a great forest walk. The tramp is mainly on underused, old or uncharted hunters' tracks through re-growth logged forest covering 12km and ascending almost 500m.

The tracks are marked by paint splashes (reddish, green and yellow) and or bits of ribbon on the trees whilst many sections are quite heavily overgrown in places. Wind-falls can be a slight hazard or inconvenience, especially to the Hobbit sized trumper. There is a fair amount of ascending and descending through the rolling terrain of the tramp, some of it almost assault course scale for the less adept and agile. There is an overall loss / gain of altitude on the entire walk of about 500metres with altitudes varying from 700 to about 1000+metres but the total ascent and descent is relatively large due to the rolling to hilly nature of the terrain.

Detail: On leaving the Pirua Stream / Waterfall car park turn right over the “White Bridge” along the gravel road for two or three minutes then turn left on a wide grass track and immediately left again on to a narrow, overgrown track (**KCK02**^{708masl}). As can be seen on the map this track heads virtually due south and is, it is understood, the old Te Iringa track. The original track is quite straight but there are now many diversions due to windfalls and the going can be slightly tiresome and an eye should be kept on the alignment of the original track if paint highlights cannot be seen on the trees. In just on half an hour go right and gently uphill at a track junction (**KC03**^{825masl}).

There is a steady climb up through the re-growth forest comprising mainly beech with a few older mature trees which escaped the wood-choppers' attentions in the past. Many of these older trees are huge with their own environment in the upper storeys with many mosses and ferns visible. A slightly clearer area is reached in 45 minutes (**KCK04**^{870masl}) and a crest offers some respite, plus a morning tea stop, (**KCK04**^{930masl}) in a about an hour.

After a refreshment stop on this crest another minor crest with a huge tree on it is reached in another 15 minutes (**KCK06**^{958 masl}) then about 8 minutes later a major crest where three ridges meet is summited – the **“kerosene can”** which names this tramp can be seen hanging from a tree branch (**KC07**^{1004masl}). At the “can” bear right at a plastic bottle placed at foot level and proceed down a very long ridge for about 2km – there is a level area after about 3hours (**KCK08**^{945 masl}) and the heading is still WSW.

About a further km along the ridge one needs to be awake and observant as there is a T-junction which is not too well marked so watch out for paint splurges, ribbons and beer cans. At this point (**KCK09**^{985masl}) turn on to a more or less N to NNW bearing and continue down the undulating ridge. A small clearing on a crest (**KCK10**^{867masl}) exists just off-track after 3:30min and this makes a good lunch spot. Half an hour further on after fighting windfalls and endless detours there is a large tree with many vivid pink marks (**KCK11**^{791masl}) where a turn to the W is made and progress becomes easier as there is an over-abundance of coloured track marks. Ten to fifteen minutes gently downslope leads out of the forest into a grassy car-park at the side (**KCK12**^{737masl}) of the Clements Mill Road after 4 – 4:15min of starting.

Rough re-growth terrain



The kerosene can



One of the remaining giants

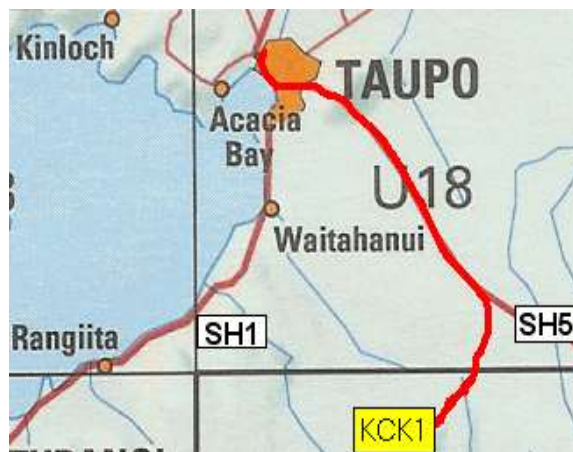


At the road turn right, grit the teeth and plod onwards bearing in mind that the “white bridge” at the start is always just over the next crest and round the next bend. This ending is a good leg-stretcher after the efforts in the forest but can prove taxing if a bit tired –at least an hour is needed to cover the 6km back to the start and 1:15–1:30 is quite common. If a tame car driver who did not walk is available it is well worth getting them to bring the transport up the road to meet the party roughly 4 hours after setting off. The whole walk takes five to five and a half hours assuming no wrong turnings are taken – but, be warned, it would be quite easy to get lost on this tramp and people vanish very quickly if they stop at the back on their own for even a minute or two – for example for a “comfort” stop. Catching up is not easy as the marks are not too clear and, if hurrying, a wrong route could be taken so carrying a PLB is a very good idea.

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access



Map and Google Image with GPS data

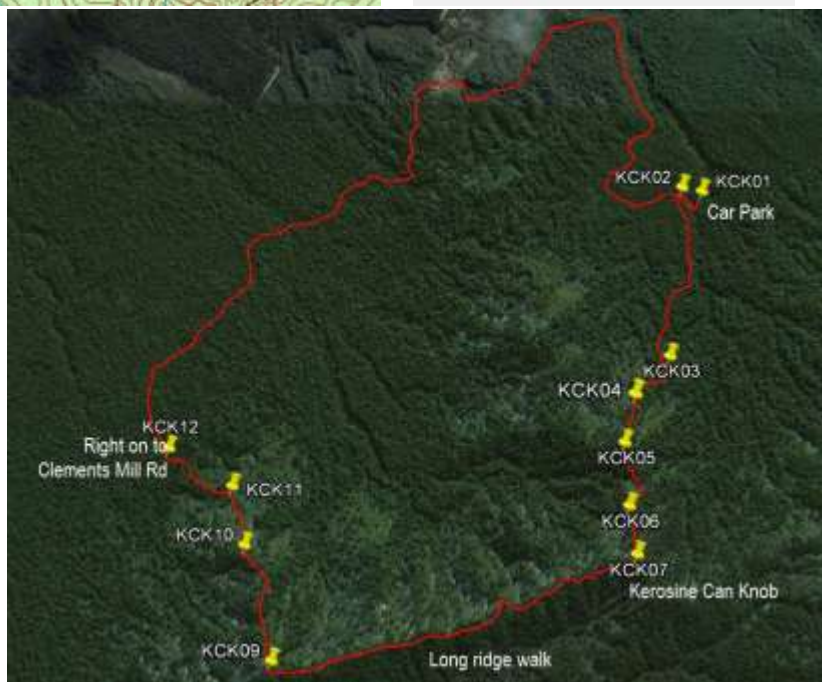


From : 05-Dec-12 08:15:54
 To : 05-Dec-12 13:41:25

Time taken : 5:25:31
 Total Distance : 11.705 Km

Minimum Speed : 0.004 KPH
 Maximum Speed : 10.230 KPH
 Average Speed : 2.157 KPH

Minimum Altitude : 699 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 1008 Meters
 Total Ascent : 495metres
 Total Descent : 500metres

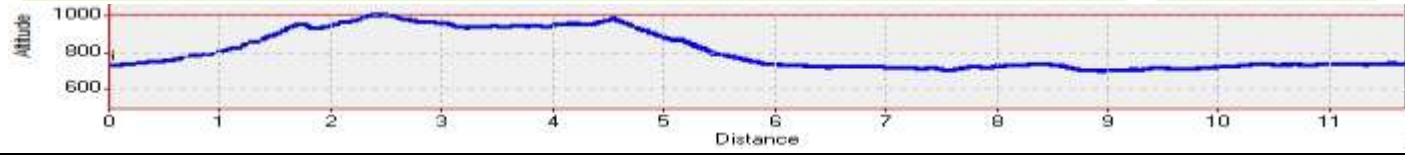


Waypoints – NZ Grid

Na...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
KCK01	2787327	6245287	700	Pirau Stream / Waterfall car park with toilet
KCK02	2787223	6245310	708	5min; over White Bridge outwards on Clements Mill Road, left and immediately left again
KCK03	2787118	6244450	825	28min; 1.2km small junction - go right gently uphill
KCK04	2786927	6244262	872	45min; 1.5km slightly open area after very thick bush
KCK05	2786861	6244032	931	53min; 1.7km mossy, minor crest on very under-used track
KCK06	2786872	6243723	958	1:15min; 2.1km minor crest with huge tree on marked but vague track
KCK07	2786898	6243490	1004	1:29min; 2.4km Kerosene Can Knob, turn right at plastic bottle to ridge heading WSW for 2km
KCK08	2785411	6243064	945	2:58hrs; 4.2km relatively level area on ridge still heading WSW
KCK09	2785089	6243036	985	3:09min; 4.5km small T-junction marked with ribbons and beer cans, go right N to NNW downhill
KCK10	2784944	6243586	867	3:27min; 5.1km clear open crest area just off track - good lunch spot
KCK11	2784874	6243875	791	4:02min; 5.5km large tree with many vivid pink marks. Many track mark paint splodges from hereon
KCK12	2784540	6244075	737	4:12min; 6km exit forest to car park then on to Clements Mill road and go right for 5.8km in 1:13min

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1877252	5683489
1877147	5683511
1877043	5682650
1876852	5682462
1876787	5682232
1876797	5681923
1876824	5681690
1875336	5681262
1875014	5681234
1874868	5681784
1874798	5682073
1874464	5682274



Notes: GPS = Garmin GPSMap60CSx
 WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
 masl = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit)