

HOROPITO

260 Series Map: Ohakune, S20

Topo50 Map: BJ34 Mnt Ruapehu

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 (**LS 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 opposite

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 (**H10 1249mas**) 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 1506mas).

The Exciting Half: From the side of the track (**H01 1249mas**) 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 (**H02 1529mas**) 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 (**H03 1459mas**) above the cascading waterfall.

The rock ladder down the side of the cascade starts after 40 minutes (**H04 1409mas**) 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 (**H05 1340mas**) 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 (**H06 1315mas**). There is an inscription on the rock for a Horace Arthur Hole who was drowned in the area on 27th May 1927(**H07 1306mas**).

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access



Lake Surprise and Mangaturuturu Hut

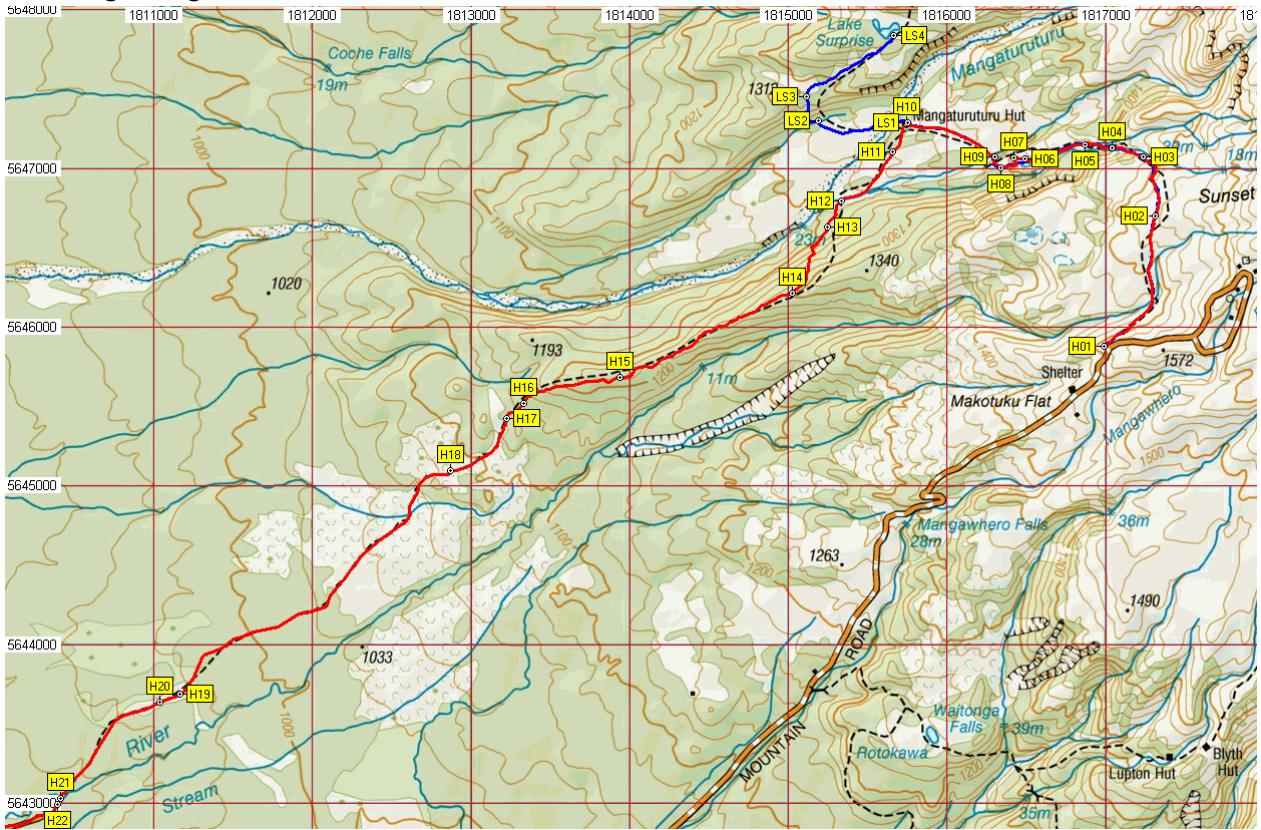


View is NNW from near the car park (Waypoint H01), over the Mangaturuturu Valley with Lake Surprise showing just left of centre in the upper part of the photo whilst the Mangaturuturu Hut (Waypoint H10) can be seen as a light spot in the forest just right of centre in the lower half of the picture

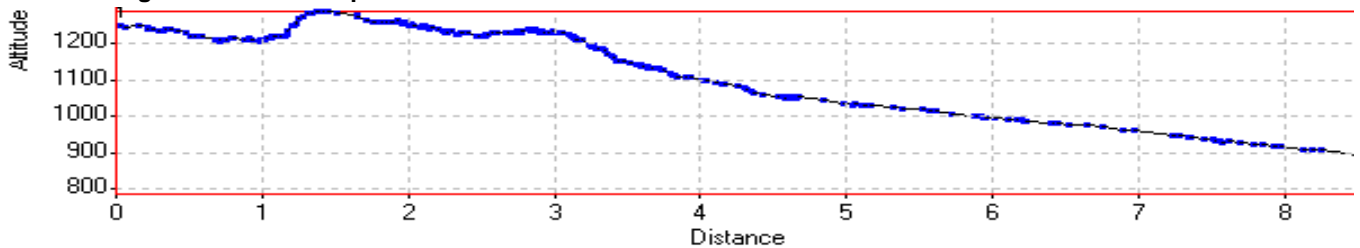
Top of the ladder



Map and Google Image with GPS data



Profile Mangaturuturu to Horopito



Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
H01	2726972	6207991	1506	Round the mountain car park on Ohakune Road 2 - 2:30 from Taupo
H02	2727293	6208813	1529	15mins, on minor ridge up poled eroded track
H03	2727219	6209184	1459	30 min, path turns left (NW) above cascades
H04	2727018	6209244	1409	40min, start of the rock ladder down cascades
H05	2726851	6209259	1340	50 min, bottom of rock ladder below cascades
H06	2726470	6209170	1315	1:10min walk, right off path towards cairn on old path
H07	2726401	6209180	1306	1:13min walk, Horace Arthur Hole memorial on rock
H08	2726320	6209114	1282	1:15 min track bears right at sign for Mangaturuturu Hut
H09	2726280	6209186	1270	1:20min river crossing of deeply incised valley - tricky
H10	2725729	6209395	1249	1:30min, Wanganui Club Mangaturuturu Hut, left into wet silver beech forest
H11	2725639	6209217	1241	1:40min, into open, skirt woods on right then parallel to river
H12	2725315	6208910	1205	1:45min, ford river, up steep slope then boardwalk into mixed wet forest
H13	2725229	6208743	1213	1:55min, 2-3 streams plus landslip area, muddy and start ascending at 2 hours
H14	2725003	6208326	1288	2:15min, on top of ridge in wet beech forest
H15	2723921	6207796	1230	2:35min, lunch stop on undulating, descending ridge in wet forest
H16	2723309	6207633	1150	3:10min, very eroded path, care required getting to lower level
H17	2723205	6207537	1138	3:25min, boardwalk, very wet tussock area, diverge from mapped path but following poles
H18	2722848	6207211	1090	3:40min, still wet tussock area, more boardwalk then high bush
H19	2721142	6205802	977	4:35min, dry gravel path
H20	2721015	6205754	973	4:40min, concrete blocks etc marking site of old sawmill
H21	2720394	6205148	927	4:50min, ford river allowing last boot cleaning
H22	2720372	6205112	931	4:55min, sign board plus road barrier and where transport meets you

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1816982	5645608
1817302	5646432
1817228	5646802
1817027	5646862
1816860	5646877
1816479	5646788
1816410	5646797
1816328	5646732
1816289	5646804
1815737	5647013
1815648	5646834
1815324	5646526
1815238	5646360
1815012	5645943
1813930	5645412
1813318	5645249
1813214	5645153
1812857	5644826
1811152	5643415
1811024	5643367
1810403	5642761
1810382	5642725
1815737	5647016
1815181	5647028
1815104	5647181
1815653	5647570

The rock with cairn



The path bears right (**H08 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 (**H09 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.

The inscription



Horace Arthur Hole
drowned 27th May 1927

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 (**H12 1205masl**) in total time of 1:45 minutes and, after crossing, a short steep lower slope leads on to a boardwalk. This boardwalk leads into more wet, mixed forest with a few incised stream crossings, over a landslip area (**H13 1213masl**), mud, more stream lines and then climbs quite steeply upwards for 15 minutes or so. At the top (**H14 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.

Hut Interior



A long way out



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. More or less level ground (**H16 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 (**H17 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 (**H19 977masl**).

Five minutes later there are some artifacts indicating the site of an old sawmill ((H20 973masl) which was used when this area was logged. Ten minutes further on a small stream or river (H21 927masl) is forded giving a last chance to clean some of the muck off the boots and the signboards indicating the track end (H22 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

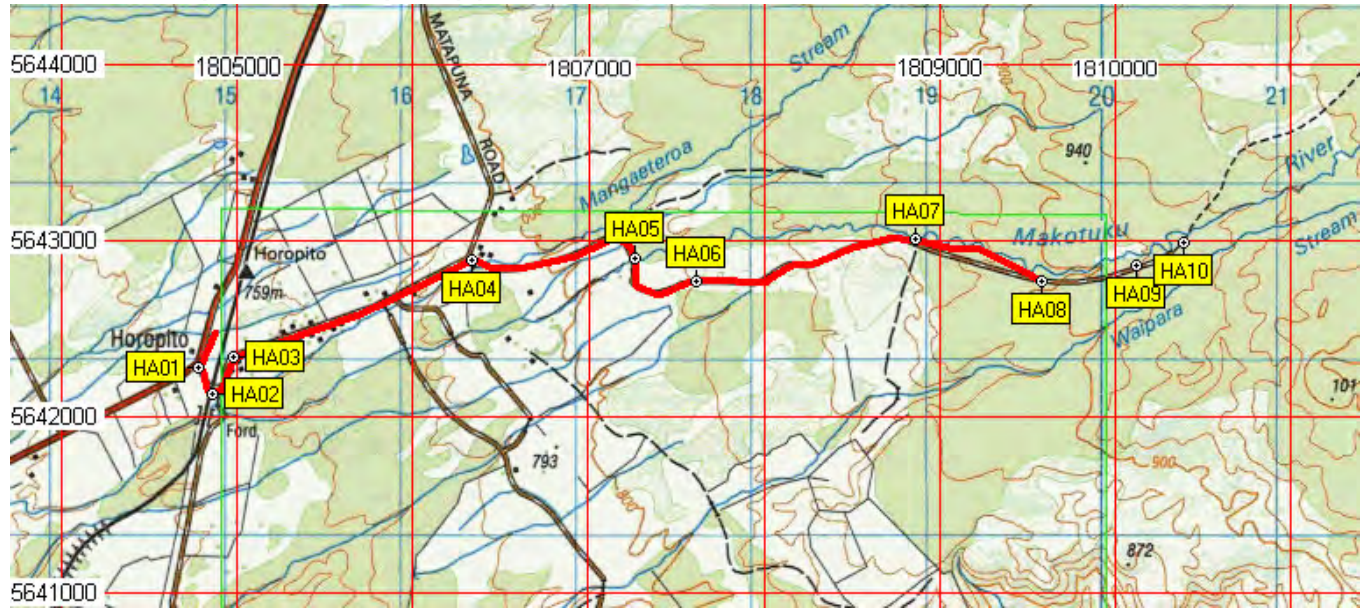


Pick-up notes:

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



Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
HA01	2714843	6203957	752	Coming from National Park and Taupo turn left off SH 4 at Horopito
HA02	2714921	6203808	755	Cross railway line and see car graveyard area both on side of road
HA03	2715042	6204013	759	Bend in road at end of car graveyard area to head NE
HA04	2716398	6204567	793	About 1.5km on gravel road at Lahar Farm turn right onto gated access road (permit needed)
HA05	2717322	6204573	816	Gate on access road just before bridge
HA06	2717670	6204448	824	Gate with good mountain view in parkland with deer and sheep
HA07	2718918	6204680	869	Gate at Y-fork with "Private" road clearly marked so go left
HA08	2719637	6204444	896	Y-fork, go left! Right goes to camp site / car park and no signs!!
HA09	2720176	6204535	917	T-junction, left goes towards river - go straight ahead for signboards
HA10	2720451	6204666	931	Sign board for Horopito track, park here

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1804772	5642012
1804851	5641863
1804972	5642068
1806327	5642623
1807251	5642630
1807600	5642505
1808848	5642738
1809567	5642502
1810106	5642593
1810382	5642725

Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garmin Summit GPS WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit Masl = metres above sea level
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