

## CROSBIES HUT

**260 Series Map:** T12 Thames

**Topo50 Maps:** BB34 Thames & BB35 Hikuaui

**How to get to START:** As this is well outside the Taupo area the first step is to get up to the southern end of the Coromandel aiming for Thames. In Thames a place to stop over is the Sunkist – was a backpackers now a guest house, they promise discounts for the Tramping Club / LandSAR personnel. In Thames follow the coast road branch north getting on to Brown Street with the lodge near the top of the street.

**Background:** This started as the groundwork for a possible overnighter in the Coromandel either on its own or incorporating a stop-over at or on a day walk to the Pinnacles Hut. On the map the walk in to Crosbies Hut (E1831356 N5896874) looked simple enough but local information and two short recon walks suggest one easily requires about 5 hours to get to the hut. What is described includes:

1. A morning's walk taken from Te Puru a few kilometres north of Thames on the Te Puru track which starts at the end of the sealed Te Puru Creek Road
2. A short afternoon walk on the Waiotahi Track whilst doing the tourist thing in Thames and having a view from the "Monument", which is about half an hour's walk from Sunkist Lodge
3. An overnight tramp to Crosbies Hut from Booms Flat in the Kauaeranga Valley to the hut and exit via the Karaka Track

**Te Puru:** The car park at the end of Te Puru Creek seems like it could be safe as there are houses close-by. From the car park it is straight downhill to the SE into and over the river on a chewed-up, muddy track, which is signposted as not being maintained by the local council! To begin with it is relatively easy going apart from the three river crossings so wet feet are guaranteed. The third crossing is slightly deeper than the other two and there is a clear notice on the quite well formed smooth track that the route is off to the left and into the river.

After this crossing it is a continuous grind uphill and progress is a bit slow and it took over two hours to cover slightly over 3km reaching just on 400metres altitude. In the same time some members of the party did reach 700m altitude. There are virtually no views on this outing apart from an occasional glimpse of the coast, best seen on the descent.

DoC are very active in this area as there numerous trap lines and also notices and information on an endangered species – the species "*Pimelea tomentosa*" seems to only grow in the semi-open of the track! The forest is very dense and eventually a mature Kauri was seen as well as several immature Kauri, Rimu and Lancewood. Many fantails flit around on the lower slopes.

### River crossing



### Flora protection

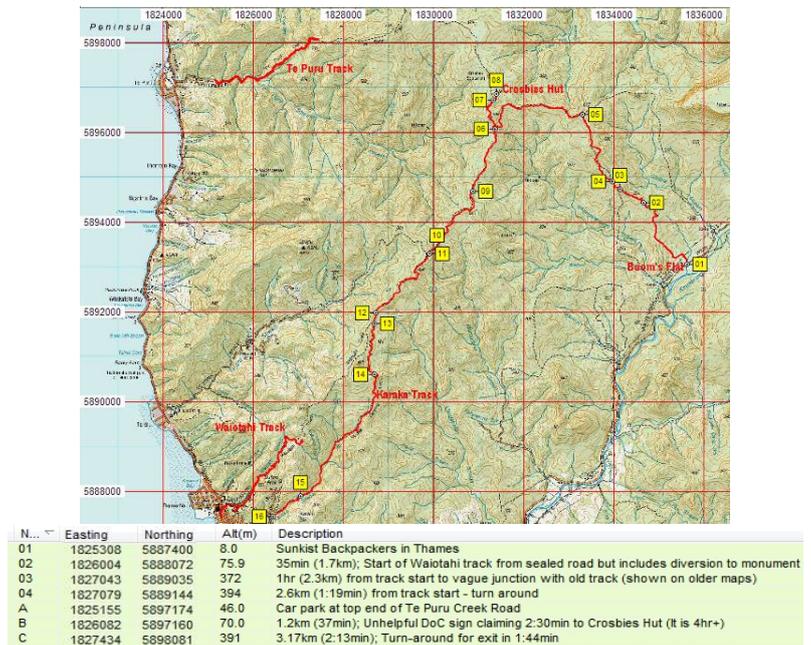


### Forest fossils



**Waiotahi:** The start is easy to find as it is on Waiotahi Road, which is a steep asphalt road leading up to the war memorial monument – worth a quick side trip for the views. There is a pedestrian access route which allows one to stay off the narrow road for quite a long way until the start of the actual track is found at a sharp bend on the road. There are few features to be noted on the climb but in one hour from the gate a small indistinct junction with a vague track off to the right was reached – this old track is marked on older maps but it was not investigated as it was badly overgrown. After this point the track seems to meander a bit and altitude is more slowly gained – on the day a turn-around was made after just over 2.5km just as the main ascending appeared to be easing as a small pass was reached. As per normal the trip back downhill was a bit easier and faster.

**Boom's Flat and Karaka:** A good overnighter requiring fair fitness and no fear of getting the boots dirty. Overall 25+km covered with 5 to 5:30 for the 10km on Day 1 and about the same time for the 15km downhill on Day 2. Occasional views of the tops including Table Mountain.



**NZ Grid GPS:** Geodetic Datum 1949

**NZTM GPS:** NZTM on WGS84

### Location and Access



### Tracks N to S

Te Puru Track

Waiotahi Track

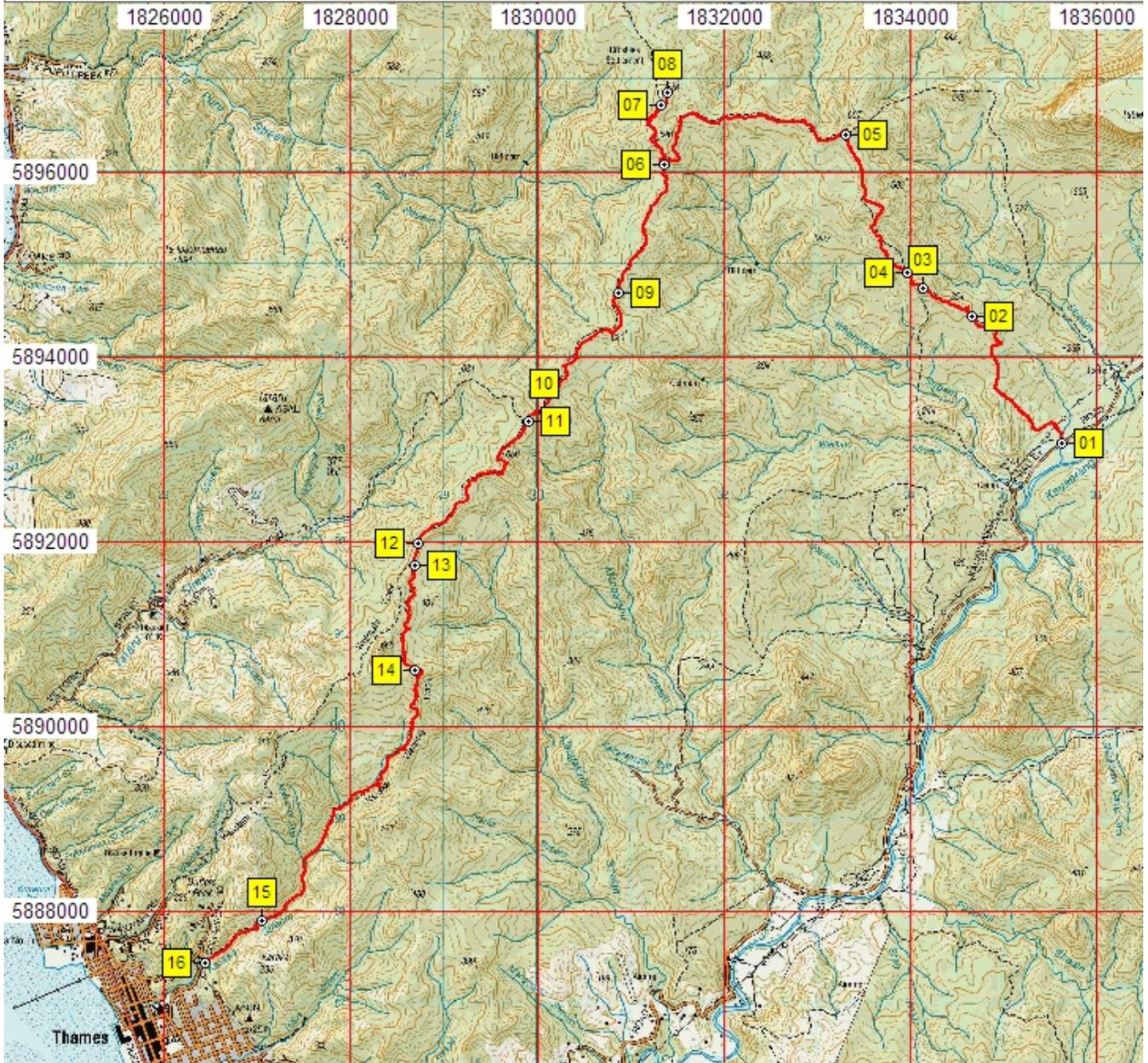
Booms Flat and Karaka Tracks

### Sunkist Lodge

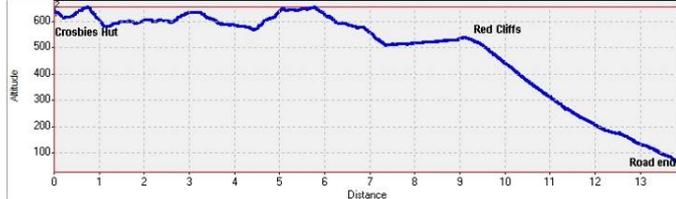


Interesting historical information about and around this building

Map with GPS Data overnight tramp



Day 2 Profile



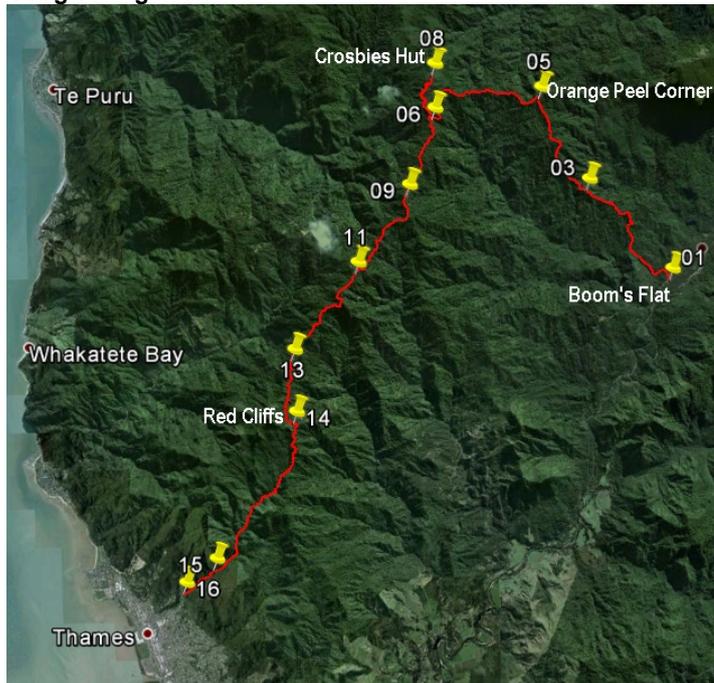
Day 1 Profile



N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1835629	5893074	96.0	Start at Booms Flat
02	1834664	5894438	300	55min (2.3km); Narrow rooty ridge
03	1834135	5894743	410	1:44min (3km); Junction with Orange Peel right and Boom's Flats left
04	1833974	5894908	405	1:57min (3.3km); Small crest after fair grunt up
05	1833313	5896403	565	2:50min (5.2km); Orange Peel Corner with hut at 1:30min away
06	1831366	5896072	560	4:48min (8.2km); Junction with Main Range with hut 30min to right and Thames left
07	1831336	5896729	622	5:09min (9.24km) Junction off main track to loop to Crosbies
08	1831391	5896868	628	5:20min (9.5km); Crosbies Hut - overnight stop
09	1830870	5894687	628	1:14min (2.9km); Big landslip
10	1830072	5893395	615	1:52min (4.8km); Level after long. gentle muddy ascent
11	1829904	5893297	648	2hours (5.1km); Jam Tins junction then new gravel infill in places
12	1828730	5891972	513	2:53min (7.4km); Quad bike gate
13	1828677	5891744	513	2:59min (7.6km); Junction with left for Karaka Track
14	1828691	5890606	538	3:33min (9km); Red Cliffs
15	1827046	5887907	128	5:16min (13.1km); Rocky river crossing at site of old bridge
16	1826433	5887454	58.0	5:30min (13.9km); Track end on road

**Day 1:** Booms Flat is 30 – 40 minutes from Thames up the Kauaeranga Valley a short distance past the DoC centre and the start of the track is clearly marked at the end of the camping area (**WP01**<sup>200masl</sup>). The track starts wide and stony, bordered by tall gorse with a gentle slope but soon becomes steeper and underfoot changes to red and yellow clays which are a bit slippery when wet.

**Google Image**



A fair bit of the walking is on quite narrow ridges (**WP02**<sup>300masl</sup>) but the vegetation is so dense the narrowness of the ridge is not really noticed though the patches of slippery mud are. In less than two hours a track junction (**WP03**<sup>410masl</sup>) is reached with Orange Peel signed as one hour to the right and an alternative route back to Boom's Flat to the left. A small crest (**WP04**<sup>405masl</sup>) is attained after a bit of a dip and minor grunt up again then within 3 hours the Orange Peel (**WP05**<sup>565masl</sup>) junction is attained – a good lunch spot. From here the track is a bit narrower as it heads basically west to then dip SW to yet another junction (**WP06**<sup>560masl</sup>) titled Main Range with Crosbies being 30min off to the right and Thames signed left.

The track from WP6 is much wider than the previous section and it is uphill, stony and eroding as it heads basically NNW to a small junction (**WP07**<sup>622masl</sup>) with Crosbies Hut at 5min almost due N on a fairly steep track that passes wood bordered camp sites, wood store and toilet to reach the hut (**WP08**<sup>628masl</sup>). This hut is large, new with a good deck which can offer extra sleeping space if a pre-booked bed has not been arranged. There is a two level wide sleeping platform so more than the advertised 10 could be accommodated but the cooking space (bench) is totally inadequate for even 10 trampers – however the wood-burner is good. Sinks and water supply are both outside and roof fed. By heading steeply downhill north from the hut on orange markers a small meadow is passed through and an emergency water supply (stream) can be accessed as can the main track which can be used for access from Te Puru.



**One of the many clear signs**



**Table Mountain**



**Crosbies Hut**

**Day 2:** The day starts by back-tracking through WP07 to reach the junction at WP06 where the heading is S then SSW towards Thames on a wide muddy, fairly gentle track with sleepers in places through attractive ferny forest. The first feature of note is the results of a massive landslip (**WP09**<sup>628masl</sup>) – no danger to walking however. The mud does stay in the picture even on the long gentle ascent to get a bit of level walking after almost 2 hours (**WP10**<sup>615masl</sup>). There is then some more ascending to get to the Jam Tins Junction (**WP11**<sup>648masl</sup>), following the right branch here would lead one down the Tararu Stream and into Thames. Around Jam Tins is still wet and mucky but there are signs of recent track work in the form of drainage channels and a few short new gravel sections and the boots stay muddy but not excessively so.



**Jam Tins Junction**



**Red Cliffs**



**Karaka Stream Crossing**

About 2km beyond Jam Tins there is a locked gate (**WP12**<sup>513masl</sup>), presumably to keep quad bikes off the track, and at just on 3 hours the junction for the Karaka Track is reached (**WP13**<sup>513masl</sup>) – right is for the Waitotahi Track which parallels the Karaka and goes slightly further in to the centre of Thames to finish. The Karaka starts off as being quite tricky in parts but does add to the challenge and the big plus point is that it leads to the Red Cliffs (**WP14**<sup>536masl</sup>) which are worth a photo or two plus the views from the narrow cliff path are worth having. From here it is, as they say, more or less all downhill in that altitude is now seriously lost until the Karaka Stream is crossed (**WP15**<sup>128masl</sup>) at just over 5 hours walking. The stream is crossed on boulders that abut the concrete pillars of an old bridge – one day the bridge might get replaced if the local council and Doc can sort things out between them. From the crossing it is about a kilometre on a gentle, wide forest track past a house to emerge on to the tar seal (**WP16**<sup>58masl</sup>) on the outskirts of Thames

<b>Notes</b>	<b>GPS</b> Garmin GPSMap 62sc	<b>WP</b> Waypoint taken by GPS	<b>masl</b> = metres above sea level
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