

SKIPS and ROGERS HUTS

260 Series Map: Whirinaki V18

Topo50 Map: BG39 Ruatahuna

How to get to START:

Exit Taupo on SH5 for Rotorua and on passing Rainbow Mountain go right on SH38 for Murapara. At Ngaputahi turn right off the gravel road on to the forest road for Okahu – the signs had all been removed in mid-2013.

The turning is at 1934245E 5721127N. Confirmation that the correct road is being followed should be found half way down when a sign for the mid Okahu Hut and campsite is seen. This is a good, well surfaced road and the car park (**WP01**^{590masl}) is at 9km.



NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access



Distances and times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route to the start can be deciphered above.

The drive takes about 2 hours

Rough Description: Depending on whether the target is the Skips or Rogers Hut this can be a moderate or a fit walk of 4-6+ hours. To Skips and back is 14km whilst a full 25km are covered if Rogers is reached. There are no knee testing ascents or descents and as this is a bike track the walking is very easy and fast. This is all part of the Moerangi bike track and there are hills if the loop via Moerangi is undertaken.

Detail: For some this is a test of just how fast it can be done and it can be described as a long fast hoof since the walking is just so easy. Even slower walkers can average a fair 4km per hour, making getting the in and out trip to Skips a couple of hours each way. At Skips (**WP08**^{552masl}) the track sign states that Rogers (**WP10**^{561masl}) (Te Wairoa) is 7km and 2 hours away but on the day it was found to be nearer 5km and just a bit over an hour.

Substantial bridges



Easy walking challenged



In fact there are really very few features to be seen on this outing apart from new sections of track – study the GPS trace and the marked track – plus several fairly stout bridges which mostly carry notices stating the load is only 1 person at a time. This has to be to ensure several cyclists do not follow each other on to the bridge as a group. However the botanist and ornithologist can have a field day as there is very luxuriant forest to pass through and the bird-life is quite impressive in that there is birdsong most of the time. The highlight can be the Whio (Blue Duck) which were spotted just north and south of Skips Hut.

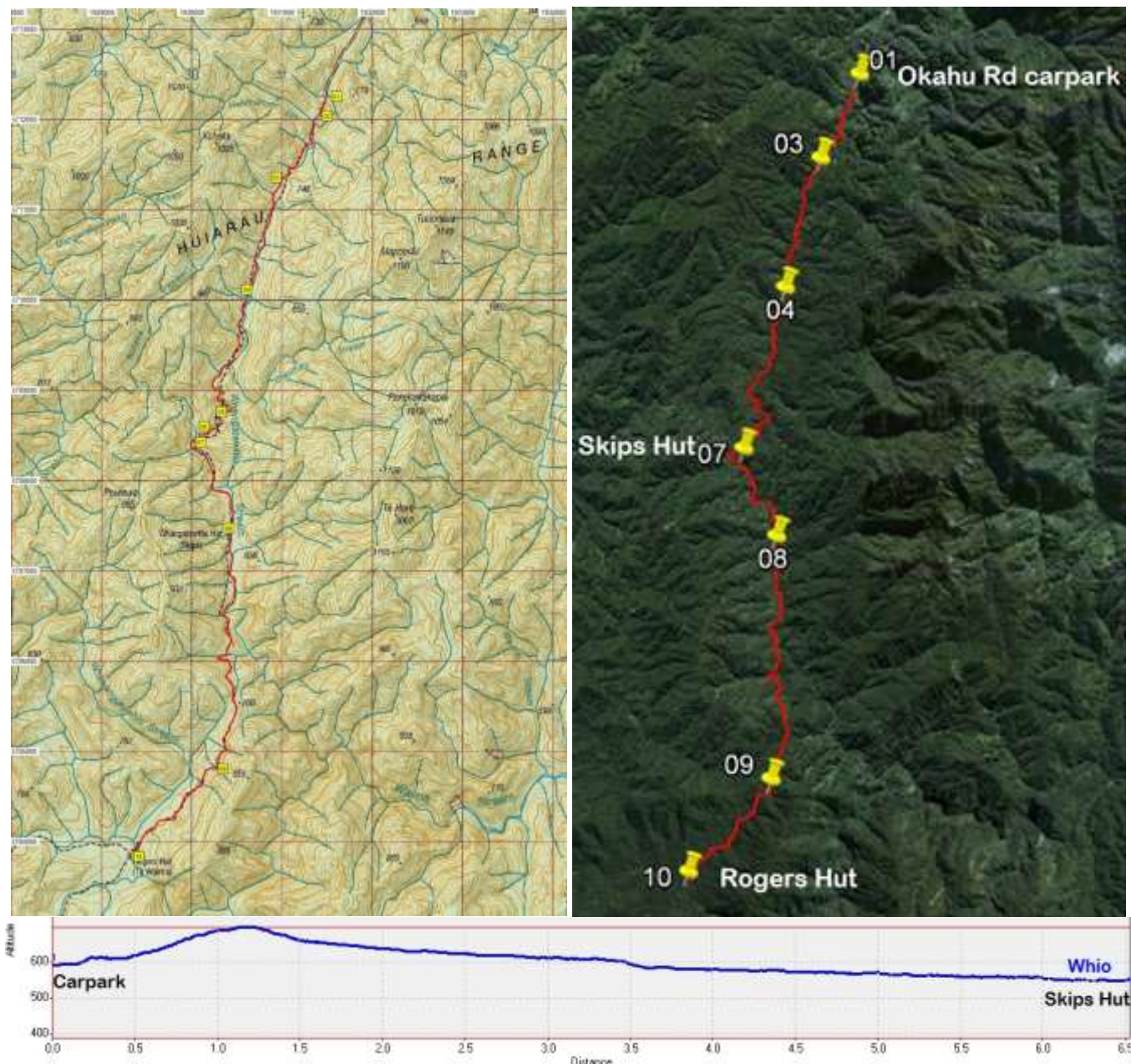
Whio



Skips Hut



Map and Google image with GPS data



No profile taken / available for Skips to Rogers

Waypoints – NZ Grid

Na...	Waypoints – NZ Grid			Description	NZTM	
	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)		Easting	Northing
01	2841549	6273980	590	Car Park at end of Okahu Road, very few surviving signs	2841549	6273980
02	2841449	6273763	616	6min (270m); Track log book post - box and book gone!	2841449	6273763
03	2841094	6273081	715	20-25min (1.2km); Start of long, moderate section of new track (see alignment)	2841094	6273081
04	2840661	6271742	617	45-50min (2.8km); Stream line with bridge and bypass	2840661	6271742
05	2840378	6270396	572	55min -1:20min (4.6km); ANother fairly large bridge on part of new bike track	2840378	6270396
06	2840180	6270230	569	1:00-1:24min (4.9km); Yet another bridge - huge long log as support for the deck	2840180	6270230
07	2840145	6270055	563	1:05 - 1:30min (5.3km); Last in a series of fairly large bridges	2840145	6270055
08	2840454	6269106	552	1:17-1:50min (6.6km); Whangatawhia (Skips) Hut on good benched track but with a few tricky bits	2840454	6269106
09	2840288	6266548	657	2:10min (11.7km); Level walking after 25min minor ascent on good wide track with moderate grade	2840288	6266548
10	2839361	6265573	561	2:30 - 3:10min (12.7km); Te Wairoa (Rogers) Hut	2839361	6265573

Notes:

- **GPS** = Garmin GPSmap 62sc
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level

Total Walk Time: 6 hours 05 minutes
Total walk Skips: 14km
Total walk Rogers: 25km
Skips altitude gain: 332m

GPS data in to Skips Hut only

From : 31-Jul-13 09:36:24
 Car park to Skips

 Time taken : 1:51min
 Total Distance : 6.534 Km
 GPS Distance : 7.08km
 GPS Ascent : 160m
 Maximum Speed : 7.263 KPH
 Average Speed : 2.291 KPH

 Minimum Altitude : 548 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 697 Meters