

MANGAEHUEHU HUT

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 **SH41** 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 the left after entering town)
- At mini-roundabout, left into Goldfinch Street then under bridge
- Convenient public toilets on the left at 140km

Continue up Ohakune Mountain Road and park (**MEE01**) on the right side of the road at the new access track for the Blyth Hut Round-the-Mountain track sign at 152km and 2:05 min from Taupo. The Mangaehuehu Hut is also shown opposite (**MEE13**)

Rough description: This is an easy in-and-out walk of a total 12.7km distance (*Refer Notes*) taking 4 - 5 hours including rest and lunch stops. The path is part of the Round The Mountain track and runs from the Ohakune Mountain Road to the Mangaehuehu Hut passing the path for the Blyth Hut en-route. There are several swing bridges to cross, a few stream crossings to negotiate, many sections of boardwalk and several, as yet, un-bridged gullies to cross. There are a couple of seats for the weary to sit down and admire the view of the mountain – on a clear day.

Detail: The well manicured path leaves from the lower side of the Blyth Hut car park (**MEE01** 1149masl) and within a couple of minutes the first bridge of the day presents itself – this is a solid structure and NOT a swing bridge. After the bridge there is a long, steady, gentle ascent with a switchback near the top. A few minutes further on the first section of boardwalk with a few steps (**MEE02** 1211masl) is encountered. In less than 20 minutes the T-junction (**MEE03** 1245masl) with the old Blyth track is met – this old track is not recommended as it is a bit long, meandering and offers wet feet.

Soon after the T-junction the trees vanish and the track is in an open, rather exposed area but does offer some new boardwalk. This leads upwards and towards beech trees from where a descent commences. In a total time of about 30 minutes there is a zig-zag in the path and a glimpse of the Waitonga Falls can be had.

Within 40 minutes a good place for a refreshment stop with photo opportunity of the falls is reached (**MEE06** 1162masl), this is right on the edge of the stream line. At this point the manicured footpath dies out and rougher walking begins.

A matter of minutes from the above stop point the first river crossing occurs – keep the eyes open and look for the “orange” triangular marker at the other side of the stream line. The rough walking continues and minutes later the second stream line crossing awaits – both these crossings are easy enough when the water level is low but exercise care when there has been recent rain. From here there is a rough ascent with some steps parallel to the river.

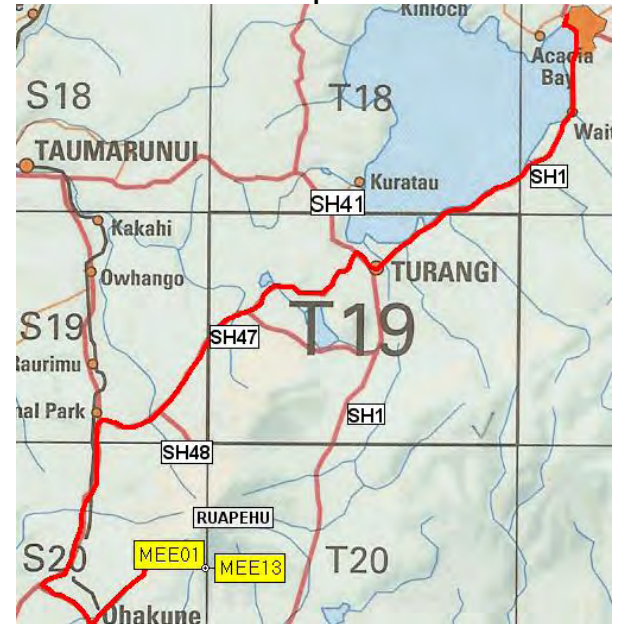
Just on the hour at a minor crest a second T-junction is found (**MEE07** 1223masl) with the left branch going to the Blyth Hut. Going straight ahead for 4 minutes over some strong boardwalk leads to a bridge. Fifteen minutes later (1:20 min total time) there is a swing bridge (**MEE08** 1187masl) over a badly eroded valley and another swing bridge is found 10 minutes later – there is a steepish climb after this second swing bridge (**MEE09** 1155masl). The ascent continues up a long boardwalk on to rough ground and out into the open where (Dec 2006) piles of wood etc offer evidence of planned path upgrading by DOC.

The rough walking now continues all the way to the hut apart from small sections associated with new swing bridges. In just over 2 hours a large gully with a stream crossing (**MEE11** 1255masl) presents itself and the next section of path is in need of upgrading. Yet another swing bridge has to be crossed at about 2:20 minutes (**MEE12** 1248masl) – this is a new bridge with stainless steel rope and fabric netting. After this there are 2 or 3 more gullies to cross with the last one only 5 minutes from the hut (**MEE13** 1287masl).

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access and 260 Series map sheets



Distances are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route is shown as the thicker red line above

Long section of boardwalk



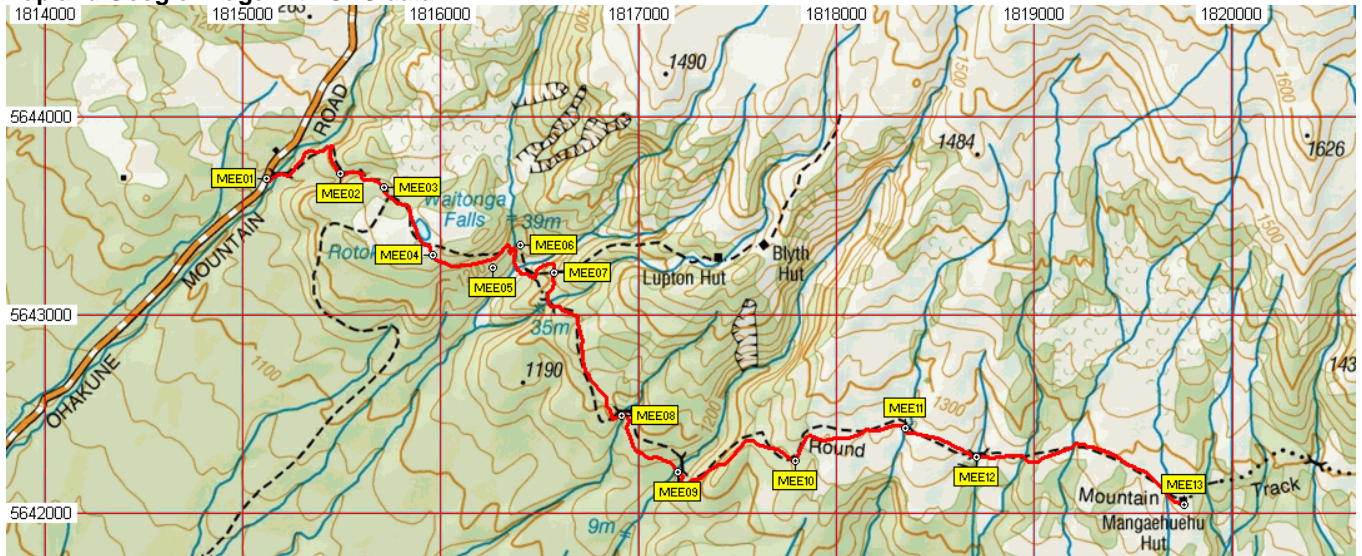
SE from near **MEE03** towards the trees at **MEE04**

Waitonga Falls viewpoint



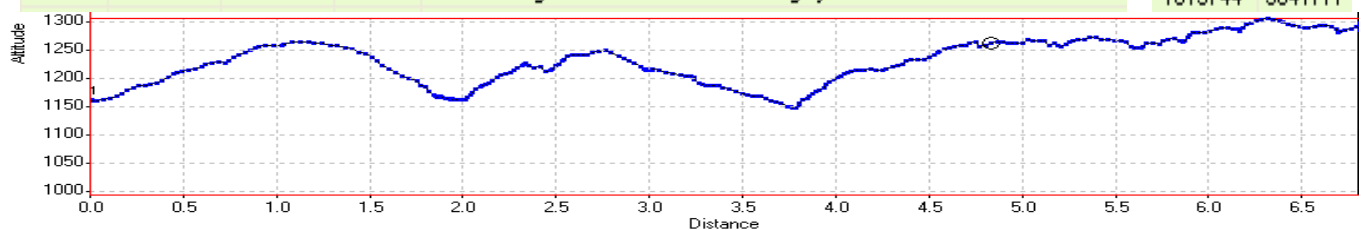
6 12 2006

Map and Google image with GPS data



Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description	NZTM Easting	Northing
MEE01	2725099	6205801	1149	Car park on RHS for Blyth Hut	1815110	5643417
MEE02	2725472	6205825	1211	5 - 6 mins first section of boardwalk plus steps	1815483	5643441
MEE03	2725694	6205757	1245	18 mins, T-junction with old Blyth track on the RHS then open, exposed area	1815705	5643373
MEE04	2725935	6205416	1248	25mins start descent through beech after open exposed area with boardwalk	1815946	5643032
MEE05	2726242	6205354	1185	30mins zig zag in path with glimpse view of Waitonga waterfall	1816253	5642970
MEE06	2726380	6205469	1162	40mins, tea stop at edge of stream line below Waitonga waterfalls	1816391	5643086
MEE07	2726553	6205325	1223	+/- 1 hour, minor crest with T-junction to left for Blyth Hut and 10 min to swing bridge	1816564	5642942
MEE08	2726891	6204604	1187	1:20 min long swing bridge over badly eroded valley	1816903	5642220
MEE09	2727176	6204323	1155	1:30mins swing bridge then steep zig zag up	1817188	5641939
MEE10	2727768	6204381	1245	1:50mins long boardwalk section then rough area into open with ongoing track work	1817781	5641998
MEE11	2728324	6204541	1255	2:05mins pass down through big gully with stream crossing	1818336	5642158
MEE12	2728681	6204397	1248	2:13min long swing bridge with stainless steel rope then sections of boardwalk	1818694	5642015
MEE13	2729731	6204159	1287	2:40min Mangaehuehu Hut 5 mins after last gully	1819744	5641777



The red GPS track correlates quite well with the mapped track except between MEE4 and MEE11, the poor agreement sections would be due to poor signal in forested areas and possible realignment of the track in other areas.

Most of the path from the car-park (**MEE01 1149masl**) to the suggested tea stop (**MEE06 1162masl**) is in superb condition whilst the remainder is of variable quality but a great deal of work is in progress by DOC and several of the gullies are now bridged.

Heading to last gully

Ruapehu from Mangaehuehu Hut



Waitonga Falls



<p>Notes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garmin GPSMap 60CSx • WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit • masl = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit) 	<p>Total Time: 5 – 6 hours Total Walk Time: 4 – 5 hours Total walk (km): 14km Overall altitude gain: 159m Total altitude gain: 350m</p>
----------------------	--	--