

BLACK DUNNY

Topo50 Map: BH36 Motutere

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

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.
- Around 10 minutes on this gravel, forest road brings you to **Te Iringa** car park on your left, and
- About 2km further on you come to a **“White Bridge”** – wooden and pale coloured
- Several other small camp grounds and car parks are passed
- Park at 55.1km 1 hour or so from town in a small layby the RHS of the road – there is almost space for two cars
- Once parked (**00**) the track starts from here heading westwards

Rough description: This was a GPS exercise more than a tramp in that a party of 11 attempted to reach the Black Dunny mainly via GPS use and very vague memories of having been there before. The originally plotted GPS waypoints were entered on a GPSMap 60 and navigation was from waypoint to waypoint whilst other trampers had copies of the map and the write-up from the previous outing – a real team effort. On the map there are two traces:

Blue can be called the Black Dunny Blunder as this was the route on the way in when it was virtually all done via basic GPS and map navigation. The “spike” north, as seen on the map, at the halfway point was the GPS operator trying to get the party lost – the situation was recovered when the river was later located (**05**).

Red is the trace of the exit route when the party hunted out the faint paint splodges on the trees and shrubs marking this route used by hunters. The GPS was kept in use on the return but was only used to ensure the party was heading in the correct direction to return to Clements Mill road.

Detail: The car park is at exactly 55.1km from Taupo and is on the west side of the road. The large tree in the photo has a bottle in the roots whilst there are two yellow bands (tape) on saplings on the other side of the road. Poking around in the bush just off the road will eventually locate a very basic route and some of the paint marks – to begin with the route is a bit wet as it follows a small stream line.

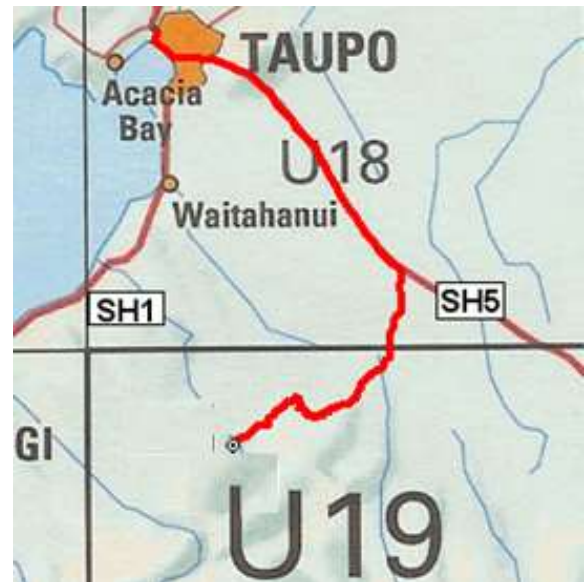
For the first two kilometres the terrain is rolling to hilly with some quite steep slopes and paint marks that are not easy to locate – however if the GPS waypoints are used it is possible to eventually get to a recognisable point – the best of these is at waypoint **05** right on the edge of a very peaceful section of river. The next feature is a distinct bend in the river **06** from where the route heads virtually due north. The trail can often be clearly seen on the ground and some sections are well blazed with paint marks or fresh cuts (blazes) on the trees – however really serious vigilance is required as it is still easy to lose the route. The Black Dunny is soon located on your left and a metre or two further on is the clearing with the bivouac.

The Black Dunny



The Hut, or bivouac, is pretty basic but obviously it is still in use by hunters who have all the facilities one would require for basic comfort – especially the roofed dunny with a lid. There are also shelters for dogs constructed out of ferns. There is a large table with benches outside and this makes a perfect refreshment stop before continuing. It was originally planned to continue on to the Just family Hut but common sense prevailed and the paint marked route outwards was followed.

Access



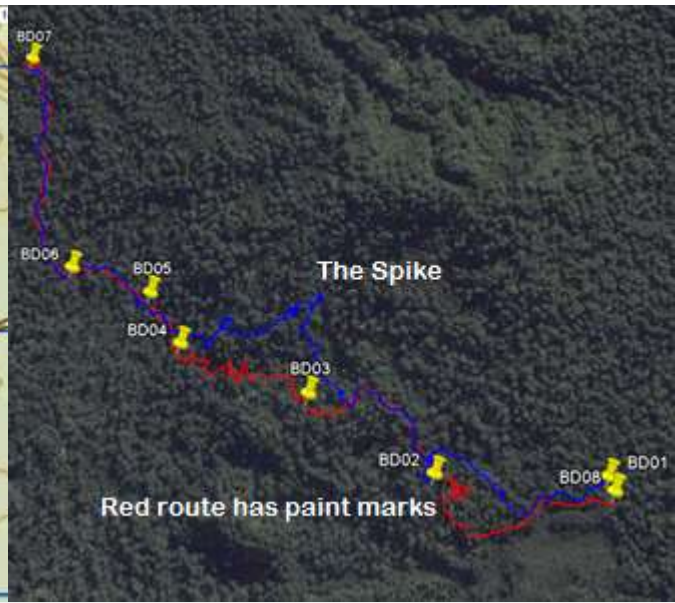
All times and distances are measured from Taupo Police station on the Domain and the route followed can be seen as the red line above.

Start point parking



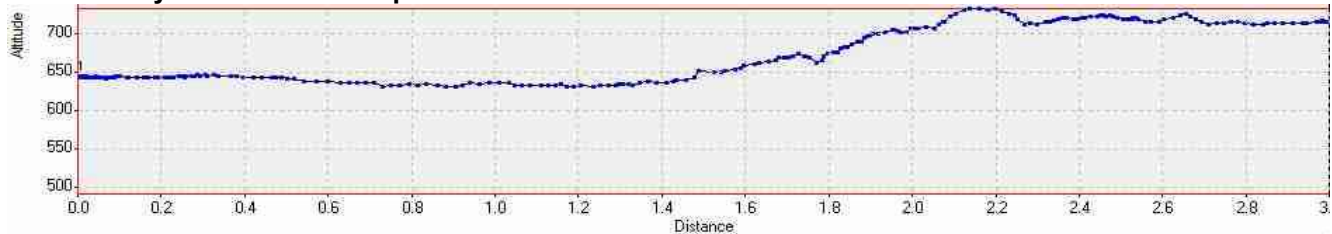
Outside the Black Dunny bivouac



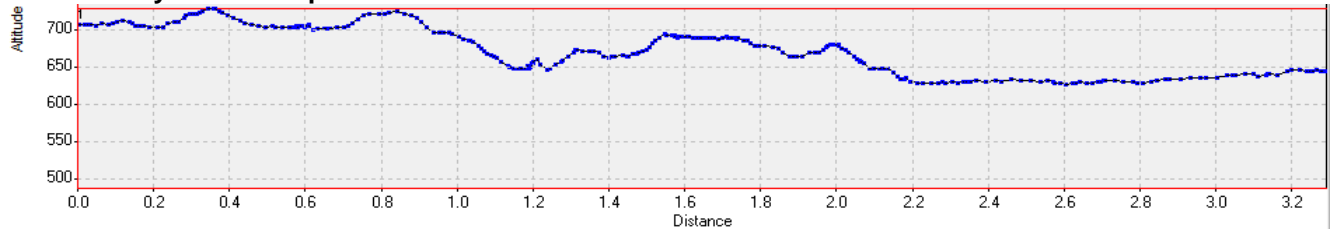


Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
00	1871613	5680571	717	Small bay at side of road 55.1km from Taupo - correct start point for paint splodge track
01	1871604	5680599	711	Head into the bush 30m north of mini car park WP00
02	1871258	5680616	705	30min (700m); A few paint marks, soon lost then gullies and grunty ascent
03	1871008	5680783	674	48min (1.15km); Leave more open area and down into boggy gully with steep side slopes
04	1870742	5680895	634	1:09min (1.73km); Very small indistinct Y junction, head right
05	1870674	5681006	632	1:13min (1.89km); Very close to edge of river
06	1870503	5681068	632	1:18min (2.11km); Bend in river then trail goes north, hard to find paint splodges in places
07	1870372	5681576	642	1:34min (2.72km); Black Dunny toilet and bivouac

Black Dunny Hunters' Track – profile of route used to exit



Black Dunny Blunder - profile of route used to enter



The yellow taped trees opposite the parking



For future GPS navigation exercises it would be much easier and efficient to have at least two units with:

- One unit using track-back from the track trace, and
- The other unit accessing and navigating to the various waypoints

The outing was considered a success in that the target was reached and trampers realised that it is possible to traverse through apparently featureless, thick, forest with a good degree of safety and sure of arriving at the target or getting back to the start point.

Notes:

The map used above is actually NOT the new NZTM sheet but one edited further by LandSAR (Search and Rescue) Taupo by realigning the end of Clements Mill road. The new Topo50 map still had an incorrect alignment at the time of this tramp.

- GPS Garmin GPSmap 60CSx
- WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- masl = metres above sea level

Updated June 2019