

BELL ROCK and BELL BIRD LOOP

260 Series Map: Te Haroto, V19

Topo50 Map: BH38Te Haroto & BH39 Putorino

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo on Lake Terrace and go left on SH5 to Napier
- In 40 min pass Lochinver Station on the right
- 45 mins pass "Scenic Lookout" on the left
- 54 mins pass Tarawera Tavern
- 1:05 pass Summit Café
- 1:15 mins left to Waitara Road
- 1:25 road becomes gravel and enter logging area
- 1:35 mins pass notice for "Kiwi Reserve"
- 1:45 mins right at T-junction to Pohukuru Road
- 1:58 mins "Boundary Stream Scenic Reserve"
- 2 hours park at start of Bell Rock Loop track on right (BR01)

Total driving time is 2 hours (122km) to reach the start and the route from Taupo is indicated on the map opposite as the heavier red line. Much of this route is on a winding, steep, gravel road heavily used by logging traffic.

Rough description: A long time is spent traveling to the start of these short walks but on clear days the views from Bell Rock are reported to be well worthwhile – however in September 2007 all that was seen was cloud, rain, sleet and snow accompanied by a biting southerly wind. The forest walk on the Bell Bird Loop is in wonderful forest with very informative notice boards – but again on a lousy day it is difficult to have the enthusiasm to enjoy and absorb the information.

Detail: BELL ROCK From the car park (BB01 765masl) at the side of the road just before the DOC office the path climbs quite steeply up through mature forest. The main features on this section are two WETA apartments, as they are called and shown in the adjacent figures) and these are worth looking at as there were residents within. The first apartment is reached within 15 minutes (BB02 831masl).

The fence line (BB03 952masl) from forest to grassland is reached in 45 minutes from the start then there is a notice at a T-junction (BB04 955masl) where you go left. Just after this one is exposed to the weather and on the day this tramp was attempted discretion won over valour and a retreat was called

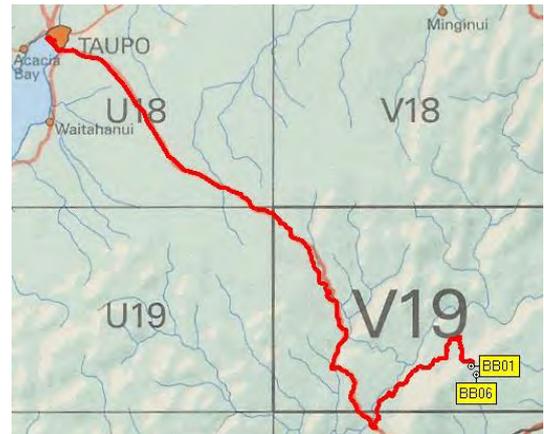
WETA apartment



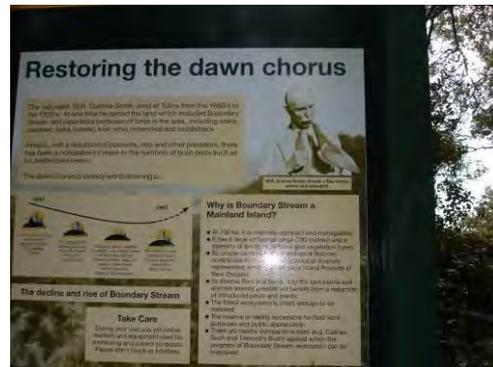
NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access



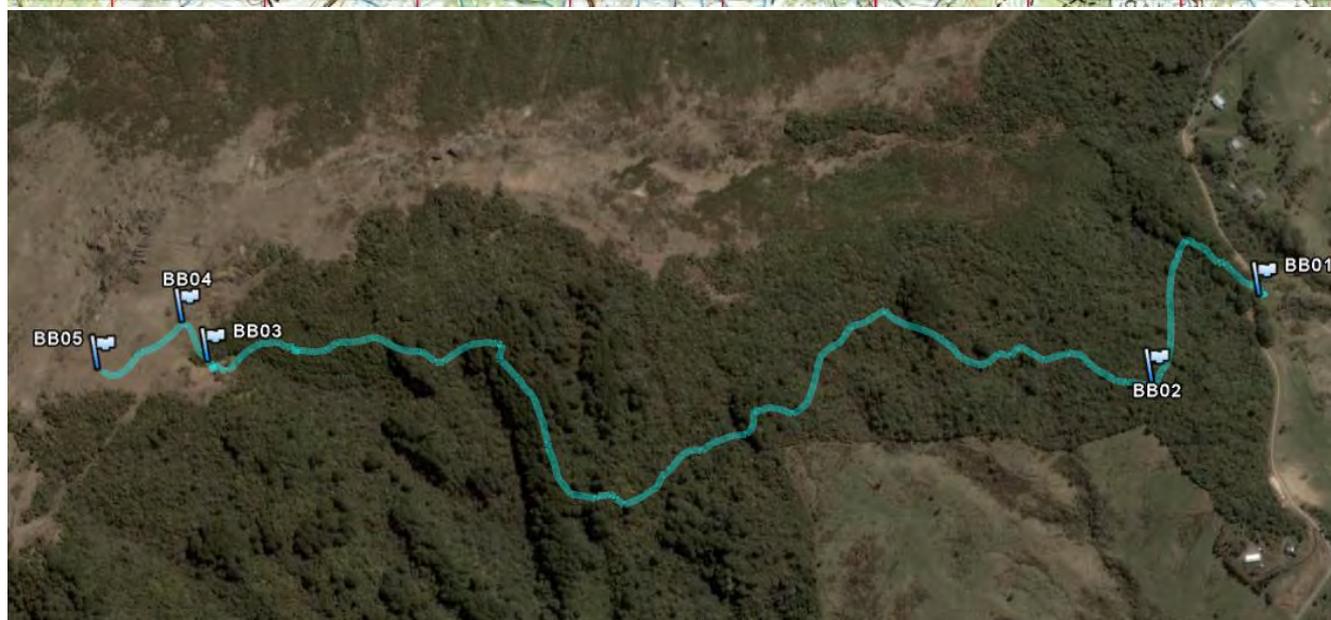
Good information



Resident WETA in top floor

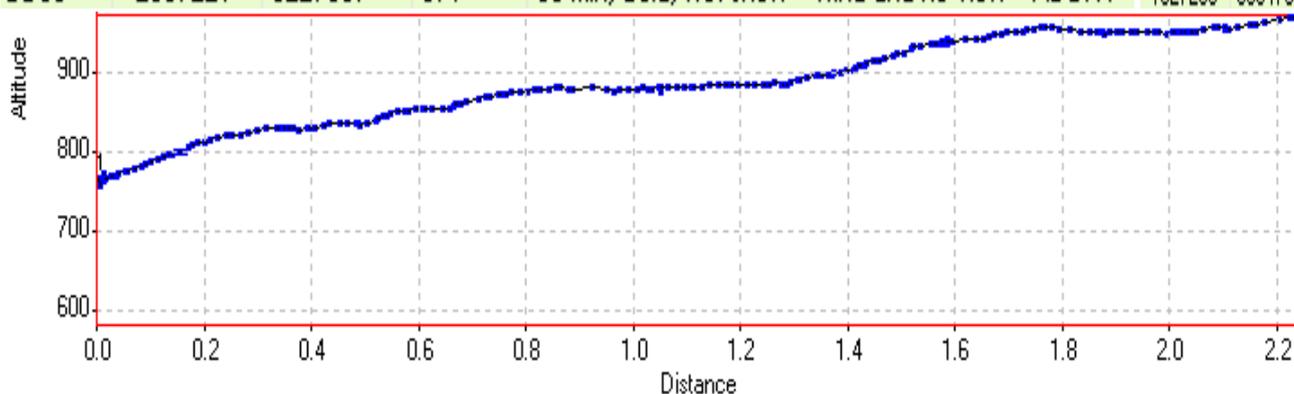


Start of the Bell Rock track on map and Google Earth



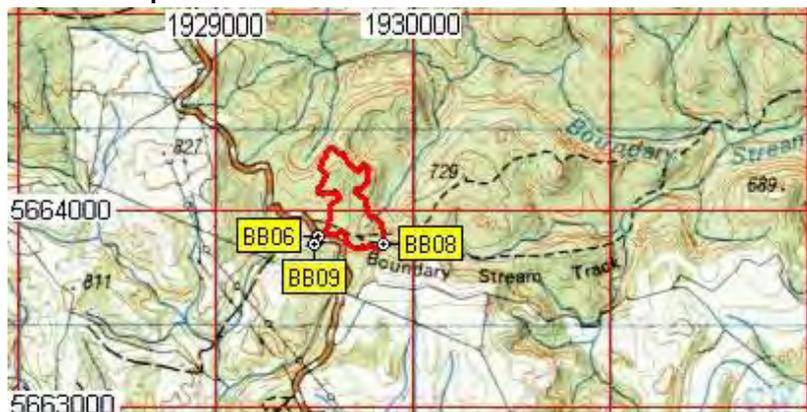
Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description	NZTM	
					Easting	Northing
BB01	2838784	6227130	765	05-SEP-07 Car Park for start of Bell Rock loop path	1928854	5664833
BB02	2838635	6227020	831	15 min; First WETA apartment	1928704	5664722
BB03	2837369	6227101	952	43 min; Fence line from forest to grassland	1927437	5664803
BB04	2837337	6227156	955	46 min; T-junction in track, left for Bell Rock	1927405	5664858
BB05	2837221	6227097	971	50 min; Cold, wet snow + wind and no view = ABORT	1927289	5664799

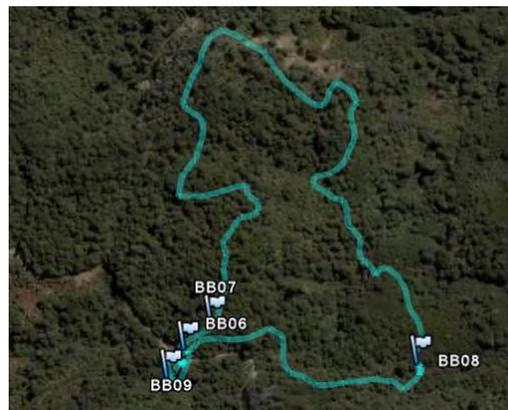


BELL BIRD LOOP The start to the Bell Bird walk is only 5 minutes further down the road with a well sign posted car park with ample information boards – there is also a toilet. There are several walks detailed on the notice boards in the car park but on the day only one loop was done and it just was not conducive to stop and read the information boards on the way round. But, with so much information plus labelled trees these would be most interesting walks.

Bell Bird loop track



Bell Bird loop on Google Earth



Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
BB06	2839442	6225894	713	05-SEP-07 Car park for Bell Bird Loop
BB07	2839482	6225929	717	1 minute; Y-fork within 30 secs, go left
BB08	2839770	6225860	694	20 min; Y-fork go right for car park
BB09	2839416	6225855	715	30 min; Toilet block on opposite side of road from tracks

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1929513	5663596
1929553	5663631
1929842	5663562
1929487	5663557
1920398	5664186

On the return journey to Taupo lunch was taken in an extremely muddy car park but the view, shown on the right, made it worthwhile getting the boots, never mind the TTC van, really fouled up.

Viewpoint from the access road to Bell Rock



Location of viewpoint



BB10	2830336	6226490	402	05-SEP-07 Viewpoint on access road of Horseshoe River bend
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- Notes:
- **GPS** Garmin GPSmap 60CSx
 - **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
 - **masl** = metres above sea level