

FOXGLOVE CLEARING via DOOLEY'S HUT

Topo50 Map: BH36 Motutere

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo on **SH5** for Napier.

- In about 25 minutes turn right into **Taharua Road** at 27.5km
- After 8 minutes again turn right (36.5km) into **Clements Mill Road** which quickly becomes gravel (36 min / 38.5km) and enters the forest
- After 10 minutes on this gravel road there is the **Te Iringa** car park on the left
- In 40 min (45.5km) pass over a **"White Bridge"**
- Continue another 7km on the gravel road
- Turn right and right again into car park (WP01) in total drive time of 1:05 minutes and 52.3km
- Once parked, walk back to the gravel road and turn left

NB All times and distances are from the police station on the Domain in Taupo. An indication of the route to the start is the blue line running on and turning off SH5 whilst the location of the tramp can be seen in red.



Rough description: A moderate walk of about 4 hours including rest and refreshment stops which is best attempted in the company of someone who knows the area and tracks. No amazing views but a great forest walk, several clearings filled with foxgloves in season and a look at a piece of local history – Dooley's Hut with a plaque in memory of old Joe Dooley, a "batten splitter" who lived and worked in the area for many years and actually died with his axe in his hand. The tramp is on underused, old or uncharted hunters' tracks through re-growth forest. The tracks are marked by paint splashes (orange, reddish, green and yellow) on the trees. Wind-falls can be a slight hazard or inconvenience on the walk, especially to the Hobbit-sized trumper, but there are not too many.

Plaque for Joe Dooley



There is an overall loss / gain of altitude of about 240 metres with altitudes varying from just under 700m at the car park to just over 900m at the lunch spot but the total ascent and descent is relatively large due to the rolling to hilly nature of the terrain. Although there is a fair amount of ascending and descending through the rolling terrain of the tramp there is no really taxing ascent. GPS records indicate a walk length in the order of 7km.

Detail: Once parked in the small car park (WP1 687mas) near the end of Clements Mill Road walk back to the gravel road, turn to the left for about 2 minutes, passing over a gurgling stream line and immediately turn right off the road into the forest on a small, not too well marked track (WP2 683mas) – this section is relatively easy to follow as it runs parallel to a deeply incised, heavily forested stream line on the right, but keep a look out for paint spots on the trees. Pass through a small depression or valley after about 18-20 minutes.

Dooley's Hut (WP3 735mas) is reached within 20 - 30 minutes from the car park; Joe Dooley used to park his transport on the road where the track started. The hut is open and can be entered and there are the usual signs requesting respect is shown to the place and surroundings. A short walk from the hut takes one to the "facilities" – this was probably one of the few bush toilets with a seat and protection from the rain. The hut is rather dilapidated but still functional with 4 bunks but the water supply, piped from the nearby stream, is no longer operational.

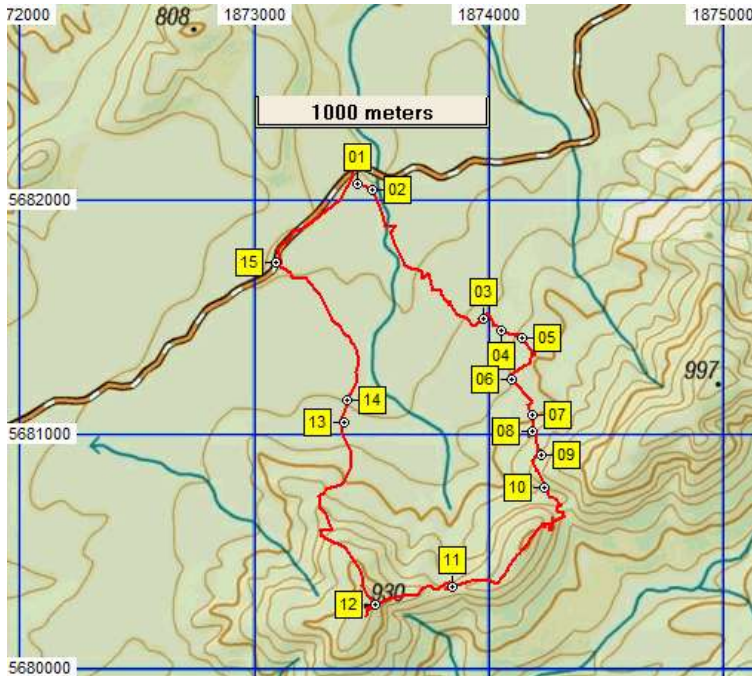
The trail continues by going round behind the hut and heading more or less S, there are paint marks on the trees but these are not that easy to follow so keep the eyes open. There are some magnificent beech trees to be seen. At about 35 minutes total time there is a Y-fork (WP4 749mas) in the trail – go left. In another five minutes there is a small gully (FOX5 759mas) with quite clear paint marks on the trees indicating the path going upslope to the right and the marks get pretty vague after this.

There is a short, relatively steep descent down and through a stream line after about 1 hour (WP6 775mas) and the first clearing (WP7 788mas) with foxgloves is arrived at 5 minutes after this.

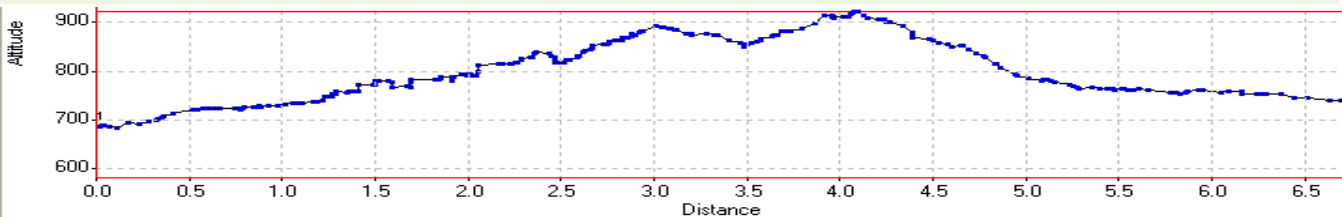
Fifteen or twenty minutes later the second and third clearings are reached with more and more flowers in each clearing – the path between these is relatively well marked and slightly steep on undulating to rolling terrain. The main foxglove clearing (WP10 818mas) is a steep sided valley which is reached after about 1:35 walking. Once in the clearing walk up-valley and at the top head in a SE direction (your right) up over a saddle on to a ridge – this section of track is not marked so just go by direction and by staying on the ridge disregarding markers going left. After a few minutes the paint marks do reappear and the route swings round till you are ascending in a SW direction and then in a WSW to W along the ridge to a small valley (WP11 852mas) in roughly 2:15 minutes. This small valley has a huge dead tree lying in it. Continuing on and upwards in this WSW direction for another 15 minutes reaches a high point where there is a T-junction and several paint marks etc on the trees (WP12 915mas).

Dooley's Hut interior





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1873441	5682072	687	Car park on RHS of Clements Mill Road 1 hour from Taupo
02	1873503	5682046	683	120m (2min); Exit car park, turn left then right onto track when gurgling creek heard
03	1873973	5681497	735	1.17km (28min); undulating track to reach Dooley's Hut. Pass behind hut and head +/- due South
04	1874049	5681445	749	11.29km (35min); Y-fork on orange marked trail, go left
05	1874140	5681410	759	1.41km (40min); minor gully with marks going right after gully, then poor marks
06	1874095	5681236	775	1.69km (1 hour); steepish descent to cross stream line, reasonable marks
07	1874186	5681084	788	1.92km (1:05min); first small clearing with foxgloves
08	1874182	5681015	790	1.99km (1:20min); second clearing, larger and quite steep slopes
09	1874222	5680916	817	2.25km (1:25min); third clearing
10	1874233	5680772	818	2.47km (1:35min); main clearing in steep sided valley. Go up valley bearing right onto saddle/ridge
11	1873845	5680348	852	3.56km (2hrs); yellow and green markers SW then WSW to W along ridge to small valley
12	1873517	5680274	915	3.92km, (2:35min); high point with T-jnt and several marks, head NW on fair path with many marks
13	1873380	5681050	780	5.14km (3:30min); downhill in open woodland with many ferns
14	1873395	5681146	771	5.26km (3:35min); track joins from RHS (watch if going out this way)
15	1873092	5681735	758	6.05km (3:50min); go right on road opposite car chassis, also water hole to the left. 700m back



Mauve species



This is decision time as well as lunchtime after about 2:35 minutes total walk time. The route straight ahead (not covered in this account) goes to near the toilets at the end of Clements Mill Road but there is a section of this track that lacks clear markers. The route followed in this account is the path to the right which goes in a NW direction on a pretty clearly marked track. There is an area of open woodland with large ferns as ground cover to descend through at 3:30 minutes (**WP13 780masl**) and five minutes later another track joins from the right (**WP14 771masl**) – this point is important if the walk is done in reverse when one must go to the right. Clements Mill Road is reached in a fraction under 4 hours (**WP15 758masl**) at a point where there is an old car chassis to be found in the bush on the opposite side of the road and if a turn to the left were made a “waterhole” exists. By walking 10 minutes to the right the starting car park is arrived at.

White species



Notes:

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

Updated June 2019