

KEROSENE CAN KNOB

Topo50 Map: BH36 Motutere, BH37 Rangitaiki

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.
- 10 minutes on this gravel pass **Te Iringa** car park on the left, and
- 2km further on come to a **“White Bridge”** – wooden and pale coloured. There is a turn-off to the right just before the bridge with a small car park and toilet. Park here, which is directly above the Pirua waterfall.

Once parked, walk back to the gravel road from the car park and turn right over the bridge and along the road.

Rough description: A moderate walk of 5 to 5:30 hours which is best attempted in the company of someone who knows the area and tracks or, better still, have the track loaded in a GPS and use it. No amazing views but a great forest walk. The tramp is mainly on underused, old or uncharted hunters' tracks through re-growth logged forest covering 12km and ascending almost 500m.

The tracks are marked by paint splashes (reddish, green and yellow) and or bits of ribbon on the trees whilst many sections are quite heavily overgrown in places. Wind-falls can be a slight hazard or inconvenience, especially to the Hobbit sized trapper. There is a fair amount of ascending and descending through the rolling terrain of the tramp, some of it almost assault course scale for the less adept and agile. There is an overall loss / gain of altitude on the entire walk of about 500metres with altitudes varying from 700 to about 1000+metres but the total ascent and descent is relatively large due to the rolling to hilly nature of the terrain.

Detail: On leaving the Pirua Stream / Waterfall car park (**01700masl**) turn right over the “White Bridge” along the gravel road for two or three minutes then turn left on a wide grass track and immediately left again on to a narrow, overgrown track (**02708masl**). As can be seen on the map this track heads virtually due south and is, it is understood, the old Te Iringa track. The original track is quite straight but there are now many diversions due to windfalls and the going can be slightly tiresome and an eye should be kept on the alignment of the original track if paint highlights cannot be seen on the trees. In just on half an hour go right and gently uphill at a track junction (**03825masl**).

There is a steady climb up through the re-growth forest comprising mainly beech with a few older mature trees which escaped the wood-choppers' attentions in the past. Many of these older trees are huge with their own environment in the upper storeys with many mosses and ferns visible. A slightly clearer area is reached in 45 minutes (**04872masl**) and a crest offers some respite, plus a morning tea stop, (**05930masl**) in a about an hour.

After a refreshment stop on this crest another minor crest with a huge tree on it is reached in another 15 minutes (**KCK06958 masl**) then about 8 minutes later a major crest where three ridges meet is summited – the **“kerosene can”** which names this tramp can be seen hanging from a tree branch (**071004masl**). At the “can” bear right at a plastic bottle placed at foot level and proceed down a very long ridge for about 2km – there is a level area after about 3hours (**08945 masl**) and the heading is still WSW.

About a further km along the ridge one needs to be awake and observant as there is a T-junction which is not too well marked so watch out for paint splurges, ribbons and beer cans. At this point (**09985masl**) turn on to a more or less N to NNW bearing and continue down the undulating ridge. A small clearing on a crest (**10867masl**) exists just off-track after 3:30min and this makes a good lunch spot. Half an hour further on after fighting windfalls and endless detours there is a large tree with many vivid pink marks (**11791masl**) where a turn to the W is made and progress becomes easier as there is an over-abundance of coloured track marks. Ten to fifteen minutes gently downslope leads out of the forest into a grassy car-park at the side (**12737masl**) of the Clements Mill Road after 4:00 – 4:15min of starting.



Rough re-growth terrain



The kerosene can



One of the remaining giants



At the road turn right, grit the teeth and plod onwards bearing in mind that the “white bridge” at the start is always just over the next crest and round the next bend. This ending is a good leg-stretcher after the efforts in the forest but can prove taxing if a bit tired –at least an hour is needed to cover the 6km back to the start and 1:15–1:30 is quite common. If a tame car driver who did not walk is available it is well worth getting them to bring the transport up the road to meet the party roughly 4 hours after setting off. The whole walk takes five to five and a half hours assuming no wrong turnings are taken – but, be warned, it would be quite easy to get lost on this tramp and people vanish very quickly if they stop at the back on their own for even a minute or two – for example for a “comfort” stop. Catching up is not easy as the marks are not too clear and, if hurrying, a wrong route could be taken so carrying a PLB is a very good idea.

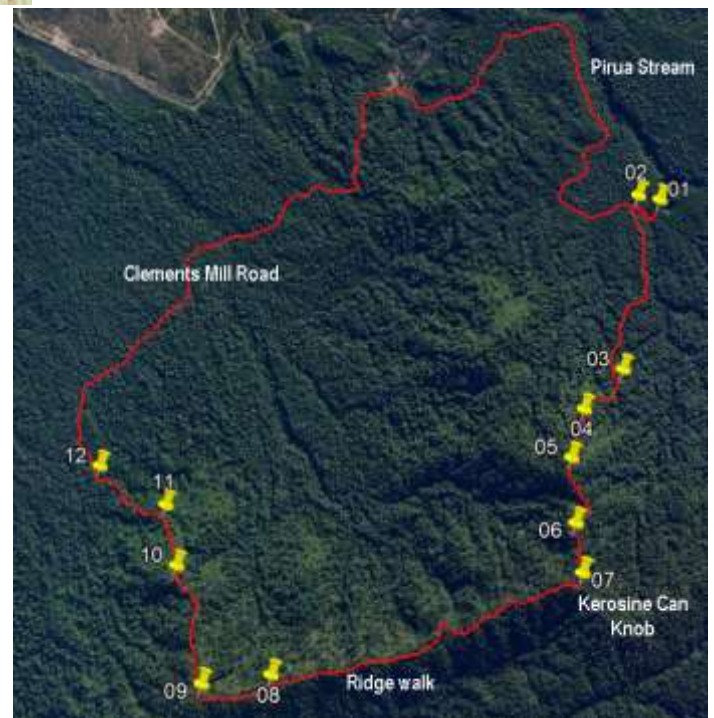


From : 05-Dec-12 08:15:54
 To : 05-Dec-12 13:41:25

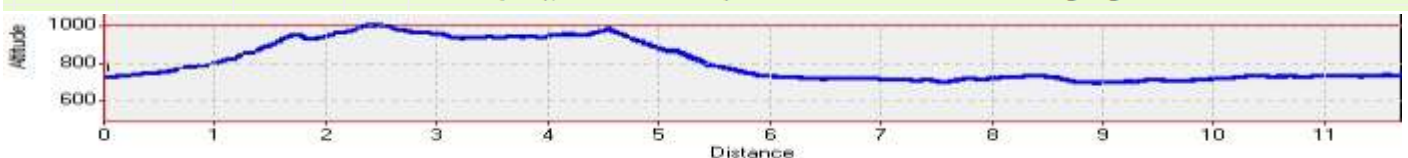
Time taken : 5:25:31
 Total Distance : 11.705 Km

Minimum Speed : 0.004 KPH
 Maximum Speed : 10.230 KPH
 Average Speed : 2.157 KPH

Minimum Altitude : 699 Meters
 Maximum Altitude : 1008 Meters
 Total Ascent : 495metres
 Total Descent : 500metres



| Name | Easting | Northing | Alt... | Description |
|------|---------|----------|--------|--|
| 01 | 1877252 | 5683489 | 700 | Pirua Stream / Waterfall car park with toilet |
| 02 | 1877147 | 5683511 | 708 | 5min; over White Bridge outwards on Clements Mill Road, left and immediately left again |
| 03 | 1877043 | 5682650 | 825 | 28min (1.2km); small junction - go right gently uphill |
| 04 | 1876852 | 5682462 | 872 | 45min (1.5km); slightly open area after very thick bush |
| 05 | 1876787 | 5682232 | 931 | 53min (1.7km); mossy, minor crest on very under-used track |
| 06 | 1876797 | 5681923 | 958 | 1:15min (2.1km); minor crest with huge tree on marked but vague track |
| 07 | 1876824 | 5681690 | 1004 | 1:29min (2.4km); Kerosene Can Knob, turn right at plastic bottle to ridge heading WSW for 2km |
| 08 | 1875336 | 5681262 | 945 | 2:58min (4.2km); relatively level area on ridge still heading WSW |
| 09 | 1875014 | 5681234 | 985 | 3:09min (4.5km); small T-junction marked with ribbons and beer cans, go right N to NNW downhill |
| 10 | 1874868 | 5681784 | 867 | 3:27min (5.1km); clear open crest area just off track - good lunch spot |
| 11 | 1874798 | 5682073 | 791 | 4:02min (5.5km); large tree with many vivid pink marks. Many track mark paint splodges from hereon |
| 12 | 1874464 | 5682274 | 737 | 4:12min (6km); exit forest to carpark then to Clements Mill road and go right for 5.8km in 1:13min |



Notes: GPS = Garmin GPSMap60CSx
 WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
 masl = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit)