

# LAKE ROTOPOUNAMU

Topo50 Map: BH35 Turangi

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

## Access and maps



**How to get to START:** Exit Taupo on SH1 down the lake for 47km in 45 minutes to Turangi then:

- Follow the Desert Highway (**SH1**), turn off right to SH41 for Tokaanu
- Turn off left to **SH47** and turn left and up over Te Ponanga Saddle Road heading towards National Park
- Pass the sign for Hinemihis Track on the left and 2km later
- Park at the very obvious car park on the RHS about an hour from Taupo, in the past this car park has had security problems.
- The well-marked track goes off uphill on the other side of the road from the car-park

**Rough Description:** A very easy, pleasant walk that can be undertaken by virtually any standard of walker. Two to three hours required depending on how much study is made of the vegetation and other natural features on the walk which is between 5 and 6km in length. Many of the tree species are named – male and female Rimu were located - there are “weta” houses to be found (some with hinged lids to allow study of the activities inside), a variety of duck use the lake and birdsong is heard most of the time indicating a relatively healthy environment.

### Start of track



The track is first rate all the way round but there is a chance of getting sand in the shoes as there is a short section on the sandy shore-line. The path is wide, well benched and has a gravel surface. DoC obviously uses a quad bike for servicing purposes but have taken the precaution of having a set of steps half-way round as a block for anyone planning to use wheeled transport instead of their legs to get round the lake.

From the road (**WP01**) there is a steady ascent to a junction (**WP02**) where there are more information boards and a choice has to be made as to whether to walk clockwise or anti-clockwise – the notice actually recommends the clockwise route. For the first thirty minutes there is little sign of the lake then there is a small junction (**WP03**) where a small spur goes into the reeds and the edge of the water.

### Weta house



Just past this point a small loop track goes off on the left and if a keen lookout is kept a few “weta” houses can be seen (**WP04**). Two of these were found to have hinged covers to allow study of the activities of the “weta” – if opened then ensure they are closed afterwards. Minutes later the lake edge is approached and there is a seat waiting for any that find the legs are getting weary though there is really no excuse to be tired as the walking is all so easy.

Ten minutes further on there is a relatively large new wooden bridge and the old track can be seen down below the bridge – there are many Lancewood and Rimu in this area. The next feature is when the track comes out of the trees (**WP07**) for a short stroll along the shore edge at the top NE corner of the lake – there is a DoC toilet (**WP08**) at the end of this and this is where the previously mentioned steps or stairs are found. There are only a few steps but they would be enough to discourage motorised transport.

### Nature's art form



The track then just meanders on with a few gentle slopes and a huge variety of species of trees and ferns to see and study plus a fair selection of birdlife. Wood pigeon were heard and seen – they seemed very tame and just sat within view for quite some time – and a few robins came along to inspect what was going on. Whilst walking along at a few points there was a serenade from Paradise Duck and the walkers were stalked along the shore-line section of track by one duck that homed-in on all walkers obviously hoping for a few crumbs to eat. Once back round on the western edge of the lake there is a small spur (**WP09**) down to the water's edge and from here a good view is obtained over the lake and of Pihanga up behind. Soon after passing this point there is a nice little grove overhung by Rimu then the track starts it's gentle ascent back up to the junction (**WP02**) followed by the descent back out to the road and car park.

### Hunter duck



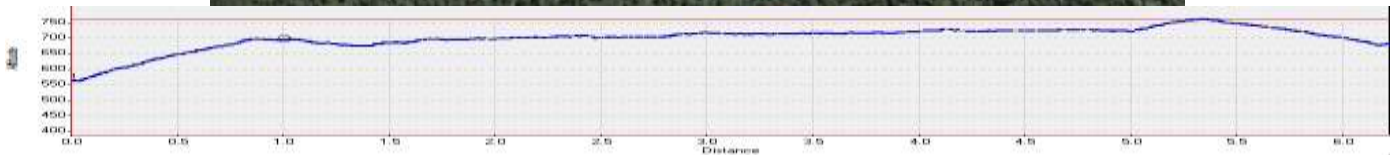
This friendly fellow stalked every walker that passed by – obviously looking and hoping for food! Hence he was a “hunter” or “stalker”.

### Pihanga over Rotopounamu



### Paradise Ducks





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1836518	5677792	564	Car park on edge of SH47 heading towards National Park from Tokaanu
02	1836554	5677100	691	17mins (820m); easy though steep climb to track junction with info notices & woodpigeon. Go left
03	1837030	5677249	674	29mins (1.37km); very small junction with track in to reeds at lake edge
04	1837046	5677262	680	30min (1.38km); small loop track with three "Weta" houses
05	1837107	5677226	685	36min (1.57km); seat on lake edge with serenade from Paradise Ducks
06	1837322	5677020	700	46mins (1.91km); wooden bridge overlooking old track in area with many Rimu and Lancewood
07	1837711	5676878	703	1hour (2.48km); exit trees on to the sandy shore-line with seat for the weary
08	1837691	5676574	705	1:08mins (2.80km); edge of lake at DoC toilet then up a flight of steps
09	1836394	5676710	723	2hours (4.91km); small spur with viewpoint over lake and Pihanga

**Notes:**

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

**Total Time:** 2 hours 26 minutes  
**Total Walk Time:** 2 hours  
**Total walk length:** 6.3km (GPS records)  
**Overall ascent:** 174 metres  
**Overall descent:** 175 metres

Time taken : 2:26:29  
 Total Distance : 6.226 Km  
 Minimum Speed : 0.113 KPH  
 Maximum Speed : 8.556 KPH  
 Average Speed : 2.550 KPH  
 Minimum Altitude : 562 Meters  
 Maximum Altitude : 762 Meters