

MANGAMATE HUT and KAKANUI STREAM

Topo50 Map: BG38 Wairapukao

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

1. Exit Taupo on SH1 North either through town or via the ETA
2. 10 minutes pick up SH5 at Wairakei and head for Rotorua
3. 1 hour turn right on to SH38 as soon as Rainbow Mountain is passed
4. 1:10 min pass through Murupara
5. 1:30 min pass through Te Whaiti
6. 1:33 min right into Minginui Road
7. 1:40 min bear right to Forest Park
8. 1:41 min right again on unsealed road
9. 1:40 min left to River Road then left again
10. 1:55 min cross bridge
11. 2 hours River Road car-park / track end waypoint **WP01**

Times from the Taupo Police Station on Tongariro Domain

Rough description: A tramp that proves to be quite a challenge with ample off-track walking, a lot of wet work - both up and downstream - enough distance to show in the legs and a good hut for overnighting. Starts and ends at the River Road car park Minginui, uses sections of the Whirinaki Track, Upper Mangamate and Kakanui Streams. Day 1 requires 3 - 5:30min whilst Day 2 can need up to 8 hours - the young and fit / fast can do it much more quickly.

Detail: Day 1 - From the car park (**WP01 418masl**), where there is a toilet, exit southwards under the arch on the wide, flat track. Almost immediately there are notices naming and identifying many of the native trees plus info boards about the "Podocarps", local (Blue) duck and in 5 - 10 minutes there is a log book (**WP02 395masl**) at the edge of the track - sign this and see who else has been on the track.

Ten minutes later go straight at the T-junction, the right branch is the way to the waterfall loop, next feature is the bridge (**WP03 389masl**) on the Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon. In under 40 minutes after crossing a bridge go right at the T-junction (**WP04 399masl**) with the left sign-posted to Moerangi. Continue on the main track to the next junction (**WP05 418masl**) which is reached in about 1:30mins. Here take the left for the Mangamate Hut and it will be noticed that the rate of progress slows and wet feet are the order of the day as the route starts to head upstream in the Upper Mangamate Stream.

River walking



River crossing and walking routines must be observed from here on as the current can be strong and the water knee deep at times. There is a most helpful post (**WP06 444masl**) with the sign "Track" on it reached in about 2:15min - go right as left is onto the link for Moerangi. An hour or so later there is a bit of relatively dry relief as a small section of track is walked (**WP07 473masl**) though the track is not brilliant. Within 3:30 - 4:30min the site of the old Mangamate Hut should be reached with information (**WP08 518masl**) that you still have 2.4km to go and this should take about 1:15mins.

Mangamate Hut plus tents



Within the next half hour there is a bit of a climb up to meet the old track (**WP09 583masl**) which is a delight to walk and so easy compared to stream plodding - in fact this section proved much quicker than the DOC estimate. On the day the Mangamate Hut was reached in just over 5:30min where it was discovered the area had been invaded by a large school party. However the pupils were in tents and only 4 of the 10 bunks in use. The hut (**WP10 705masl**) has external sink and roof water, a wood burner, pretty small table but is quite a cosy overnight stop.

Day 2 - The day starts with quite a pleasant stroll on good track down from the Mangamate Hut for 30 minutes to reach the Kakanui Stream (**WP11 591masl**). From here it is off-track heading west then north west in or following the stream line as it heads downstream - easier than fighting the current the day before working upstream in the Upper Mangamate. There is little to say about this section of the tramp apart from on a cold day it could be miserable, it is wet in anyone's language, the forest is great and it can be quite challenging to find suitable routes in the stream bed or on land around the odd gorge or dangerous looking parts of the stream. It should be noted that for long periods there is no or very poor GPS signal available due to the depth and narrowness of the valley which has dense forest coverage. Between 3 and 4 hours later the bush opens up a bit with lots of Punga and then the footbridge on the Whirinaki track (**WP12 513masl**) is reached and everything changes again.



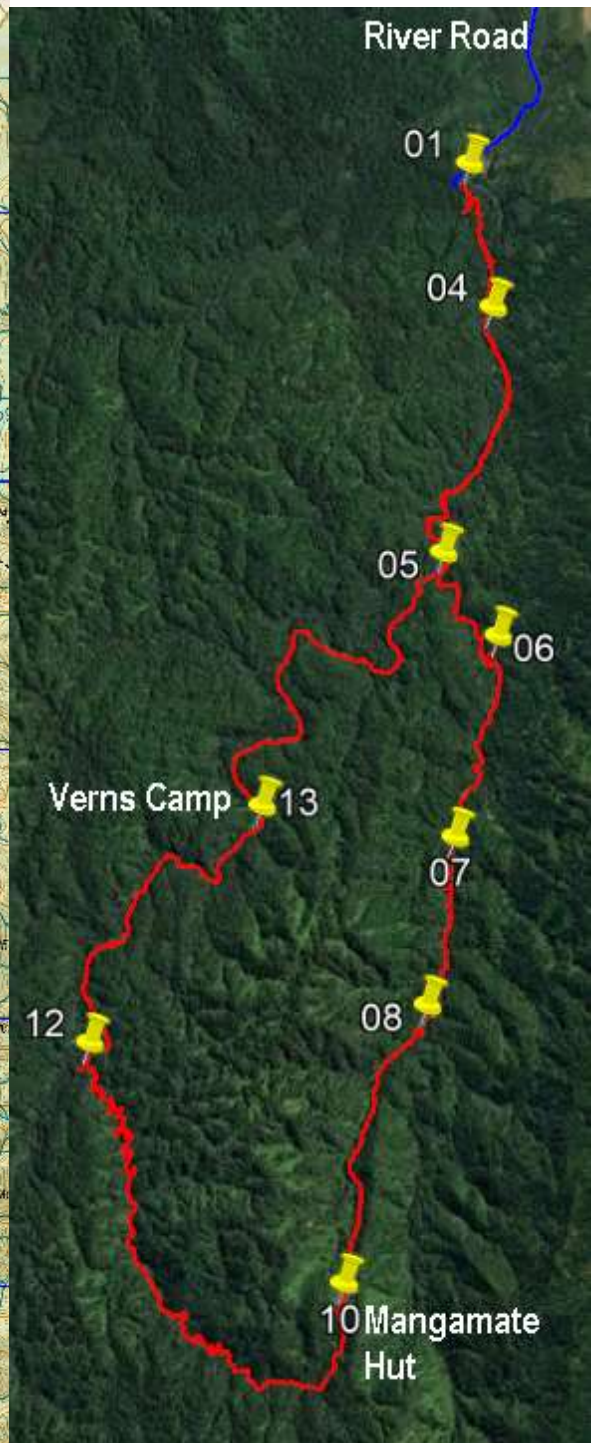
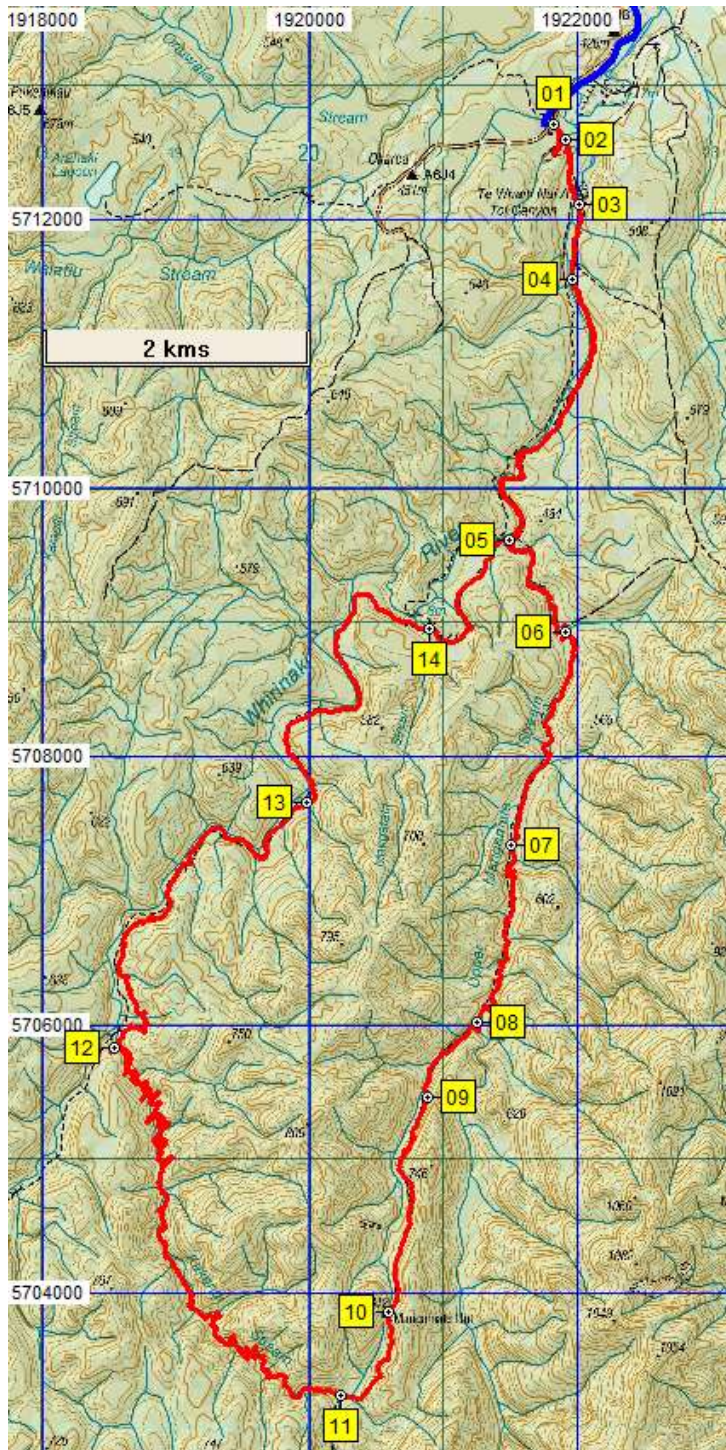
The road from Taupo through BF37 Waiotapu map sheet then SW through BF38 Kaingaroa Forest to Murupara and Minginui to River Road highlighted in **BLUE**
RED = Tramp Route

Sign for the weary



Back in the water





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1921817	5712712	418	Car park at track-end on River Road
02	1921903	5712602	395	15min (600m); Track log book
03	1922007	5712114	389	23min (1.16km); Bridge over Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon with Waterfall Loop track joining
04	1921952	5711562	399	34min (1.79km); T-junction with track for Moerangi off left
05	1921486	5709619	418	1:23min (4.43km); T-junction left to Mangamate Hut, right is Whirinaki track heading for Plateau Rd
06	1921902	5708935	444	2:26min (5.91km); Post with track sign. Go right Mangamate or left for Moerangi link
07	1921504	5707347	473	3:58min (8.78km); On track rather than in river, though track not brilliant
08	1921240	5706023	518	4:46min (10.83km); Old hut site. 3:30min & 8k from River Road and 1:15min & 2.4k to Mangamate Hut
09	1920879	5705458	583	5:13 (11.9km); Old, good track after steep climb. Go right SSW upslope for Mangamate Hut 5:40min
10	1920580	5703868	705	5:53min (13.86); Mangamate Hut heading due South for Central Hut
11	1920228	5703234	591	Day 2: 17min (980m); Head S to meet Kakanui Stream go off track, west downstream
12	1918543	5705837	513	4:14min (9.51km); Meet track at footbridge with sign - Kakanui Stream. Go right to NE
13	1919974	5707659	475	5:40min (13.8km); North on track to Verns Camp with new DOC shelter and woodburner etc
14	1920895	5708957	442	6:26min (16.78km); T-junction with right to River Road carpark and left for Falls Loop

On meeting the Whirinaki track turn right to the NE for some easy, dry walking and a better chance to admire the forest as there are some gigantic podocarp to see. The walk seems to go on forever in forest with little to see apart from trees and vegetation. Little bird life was seen though some was heard and many DOC traps can be seen so a clean-up is in progress.

In mid May 2011 there was a small bit of excitement due to a large landslip where caution was required – the photograph below gives some indication as to how narrow the shelf was on this very friable material (but a bypass has been constructed though it looks steep).

Verns Clearing or Camp (**WP13** 475masl), is reached in 1:20 minutes walking from the Kakanui stream. This is a good place for a late lunch as lately a huge new shelter with a sink, benches, a work top and even a wood-burner has been erected. There is ample camping space around here or, if conditions were really bad, it would be possible to sleep in the shelter with some comfort. There will also be the opportunity to collect a fair amount of litter and empty bottles and take them out – some people seem to delight in leaving rubbish behind.

Delicate track



Shelter at Verns camp



Out from the wilderness and on track



An hour further on there is a T-junction (**WP14** 442masl) with the Waterfall and Falls Loop track going off left; go right towards River Road which is noted as being 2 hours walk away. At the next T-junction (WP05) go left over the bridge whilst going straight goes to the Mangamate Hut which is where this adventure started on Day 1. Thirty minutes further on there is yet another T-junction (**WP04** 399masl) where you go left towards Minginui Road but right if heading for Moerangi Helicopter pad and peak.

Then it is back over the Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon, past the junction where the Waterfall Loop Track rejoins, the track-log book and back to the car park at the end of river road.

GPS Data from the trip indicates:

- Distance 28.2km
- Average moving speed 2km / hour
- Total ascent 680 metres
- Maximum altitude 733metres

Smoko always welcome and possible



Notes:	GPS	Garmin GPSMap 60CSx
	WP	Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
	masl	metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit and may not agree exactly with map spot heights)