

## PORONUI to OAMARU HUT

Topo50 Map: BH37 Rangitaiki

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

At 37km pass turn off for Clements Mill Road, still on asphalt

Road becomes gravel

At 43km Enter Poronui Station forested area through gate and wall

44km T-junction signed Poronui Ranch

Gate across road, turn right and right again to public car park (**POR01**) above helicopter area at roughly 47km from Taupo and about 50 minutes driving.

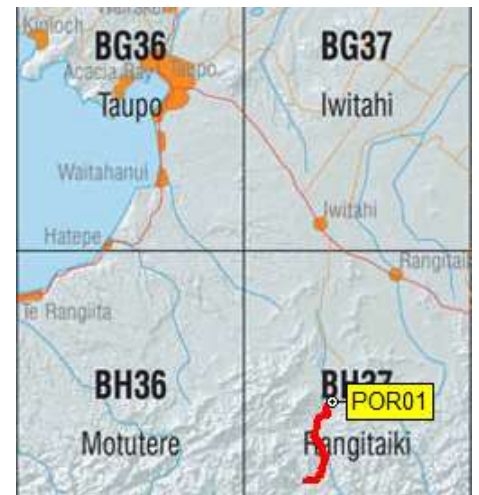
**Rough Description:** A long (13.2km one way), in-and-out day tramp, better done as an over-nighter, from the end of the public access section of Taharua Road through Poronui Station on a poled track to the Oamaru Hut. The tramp involves two river crossings and these are not recommended if river flows are high, the first one over the Mohaka can be waist deep and does have strong flow. If you get trapped at the Hut due to water level then it is possible to get out via the Oamaru Track to Te Iringa – quite a long way and a bit of a grunt. Most of the walk through Poronui is on farm road or wide smooth gravel or grass tracks – all a bit too manicured for the hardened trumper but with scenery that is well worth seeing.

**Detail:** From the car park walk back to the gate (**01** 685masl) over the road and go through the “letter-box” access on the left hand side walking down a good gravel road with clear orange markers on poles. You pass the access to the “Ranch” within 10 minutes (**02** 668masl) then in 25 min slide right off the road through a meadow, good lunch spot, then round to the right over the road bridge over the Taharua River. The next T-junction off right is to the equestrian centre (**06** 674masl) then there is the Woolshed on your right (**07** 673masl).

At 1:15min walking (plus lunch) there is an open gate (**08** 662masl) in the deer fence on the right with an unnamed road running to the SW and 5 min later there is a bend in the road as you pass a pond or reservoir on the right then a slight detour crossing a ditch (**10** 660masl) to avoid a ford that crosses the road. In around 1:25 min (**11** 661masl) the road turns right but the poled track goes straight on to a grass track passing through gum trees (Eucalyptus). There are then a few junctions off the track you are on but the route is well marked and not all are mentioned though waypoints have been taken. In 1:40 min there is a T-junction (**13** 663masl) above Goose Bridge then Fingerling Crossing and Hare Alley goes off then rejoins (**17** 661masl) in 2:22 minutes.

The grass track meets a gravel road again in 2:40min where you go right on what TTC called “Bottie Brae” as the name was doctored to read Anal Road (**19** 666masl) discretion means that I have named it Amal Road in the waypoints. Still in gum trees you then pass two turn offs to Mavis’s Lookout – whoever Mavis was! In 2:55 there is a right turn into Duck Pond Road (**21** 682masl) and minutes later there is a fence line where you leave the gum trees and enter coniferous forest then get a viewpoint out over the Mohaka (**23** 687masl)

### Goose Bridge



### The Ranch turnoff



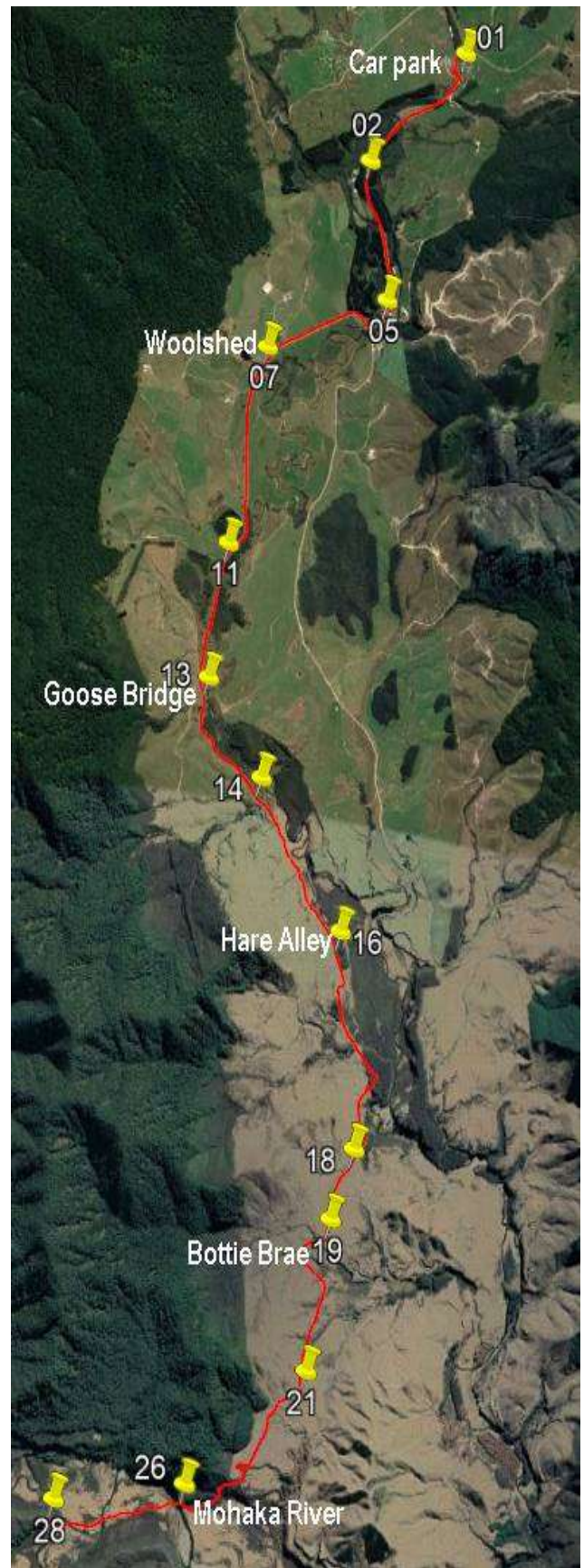
### House with a view



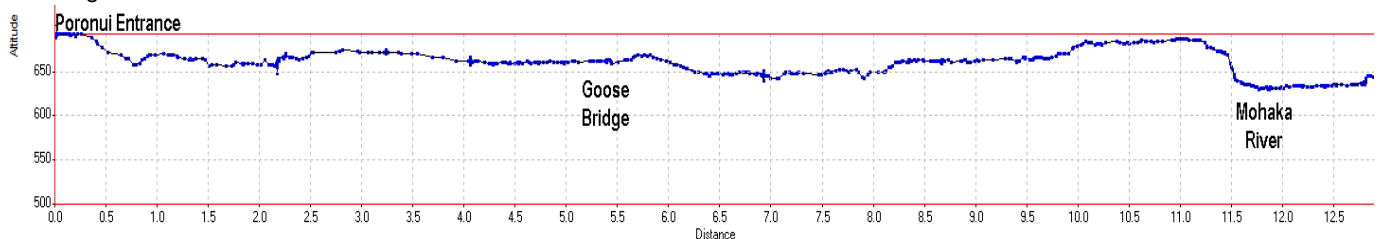
After the viewpoint there is a cross roads in the woods where you go left and downhill on a steeper section and at the bottom there is a Y-fork from Oamaru Road to the Mohaka Esplanade and by going right you leave the trees and enter an area of manuka on a rougher track and come to another fence, gate and stile on the boundary of the Poronui Station. It is steep downhill from here to the Mohaka floodplain which is rough and stony to bouldery.

The first river crossing (**26** 630masl) presents itself in about 3:25 minutes and this is over the Mohaka – it is cold, the stones in the bed are slippery, it can be deep and quite strong flowing. Head for some of the calmer sections since they may seem wider and can be deeper but the currents are less.

There is a section of tussock after the crossing then some rough going through swampy bits with a poor path and over-growing manuka. The second river crossing is only minutes later but this one, over the Oamaru River, is less daunting and much easier. It is then less than 10 minutes to the hut (**28** 646masl) which sits on a shelf above you so the last few metres are a slight push uphill.



As can be seen in the profile of the tramp there is very little altitude gain / loss on this tramp and GPS data indicate only 65 metres overall gain and loss.



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1885457	5678251	685	Poronui Station Security Gate
02	1884759	5677623	668	10min (1.19km); T-junction plus sign to right for Poronui Ranch
03	1884877	5676813	659	24min (2.04km); Poled track off right 50m before Fletcher Road T-junction
04	1884910	5676805	664	25min (2.05km); T-junction to left for Fletcher Road
05	1884858	5676763	667	30min (2.26km); Bridge over Taharua River
06	1884221	5676671	674	1Hour (2.96km); Road branch off right for equestrian centre
07	1884006	5676512	673	1:06min (3.24km); The Woolshed on right hand side with house on left
08	1883869	5675722	662	1:15min (4.07km); Open gate in deer fence with gravel road running SW
09	1883873	5675510	660	1:17min (4.29km); Bend in road opposite pond / reservoir
10	1883756	5675395	660	1:20min (4.45km); Footbridge over ditch in line with ford in road
11	1883711	5675334	661	1:22min (4.53km); Road turns to right and poled track goes straight
12	1883534	5674662	662	1:35min (5.25km); F.R.I.Road joins from the right
13	1883560	5674530	663	1:40min (5.39km); Go right at T-junction above Goose Bridge then bear left
14	1883916	5673918	654	1:50min (6.17km); Go straight with Fingerling Crossing off right at T-junction
15	1884148	5673552	647	1:55min (6.62km); Y-fork, go right and upwards on rougher track with some gorse
16	1884453	5672986	649	2:06min (7.28km); Hare Alley off right just before gate / stile into gum trees
17	1884658	5672165	661	2:22min (8.27km); Hare Alley rejoins from right, then "Pink House" on the left
18	1884526	5671710	662	2:32min (8.87km); Grass cross roads, go straight
19	1884358	5671309	666	2:38min (9.33km); Go right on meeting Amal (Bottie Brae) Road at a bend
20	1884224	5671281	665	2:43min (9.47km); T-junction to right and Mavis's Lookout
21	1884180	5670444	682	2:55min (10.45km); Go right at T-junction on Duck Pond Road
22	1884005	5670346	685	2:58min (10.67km); Fence with gate from gum area to conifers
23	1883810	5670020	687	3:03min (11.16km); Viewpoint out over Mohaka River then start downhill
24	1883728	5670026	686	3:05min (11.17km); Cross roads in trees, go left and down on steeper section
25	1883688	5669929	674	3:10min (11.39km); Go right at Y-fork at bottom from Oamaru Road to Mohaka Esplanade
26	1883324	5669820	630	3:25min (11.89km); Mohaka River crossing, strong current and deep
27	1882825	5669765	635	3:34min (12.4km); Oamaru river crossing - less deep and slower
28	1882436	5669772	646	3:44min (12.92km); Oamaru Hut (Walk time 3:15 plus breaks)

### Crossing the Mohaka



If river levels rise it may not be possible to exit by the same route but it is possible to leave via the track heading NW which goes to Te Iringa – a long but possible route. The Te Iringa track is labelled on the map.

### Oamaru Hut

The hut is quite smart with two dorms (6 bunks in each) and a kitchen area with sink plus running water and a coal fired-stove. Water supply is from a roof tank and safe plus the toilet is a new long-drop in good condition.



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