

## SKIPS and ROGERS HUTS

Topo50 Map: BG38 Wairapukao & BG39 Ruatahuna

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

### How to get to START:

Exit Taupo on SH5 for Rotorua and on passing Rainbow Mountain go right on SH38 for Murapara. At Ngaputahi turn right off the gravel road on to the forest road for Okahu – the signs had all been removed in mid-2013.

The turning is at 1934245E 5721127N. Confirmation that the correct road is being followed should be found half way down when a sign for the mid Okahu Hut and campsite is seen. This is a good, well surfaced road and the car park (WP01590masl) is at 9km.



Distances and times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route to the start can be deciphered above.

The drive takes about 2 hours

**Rough Description:** Depending on whether the target is the Skips or Rogers Hut this can be a moderate or a fit walk of 4-6+ hours. To Skips and back is 14km whilst a full 25km are covered if Rogers is reached. There are no knee testing ascents or descents and as this is a bike track the walking is very easy and fast. This is all part of the Moerangi bike track and there are hills if the loop via Moerangi is undertaken.

**Detail:** For some this is a test of just how fast it can be done and it can be described as a long fast hoof since the walking is just so easy. Even slower walkers can average just over 4km per hour, making getting the in and out trip to Skips a bit over a couple of hours each way. For Skips (WP08552masl) the track sign states 7km from the car park and this is pretty well spot on and that Rogers (WP10561masl) (Te Wairoa) is a further 5km from Skips.

### Substantial bridges



### Easy walking challenged



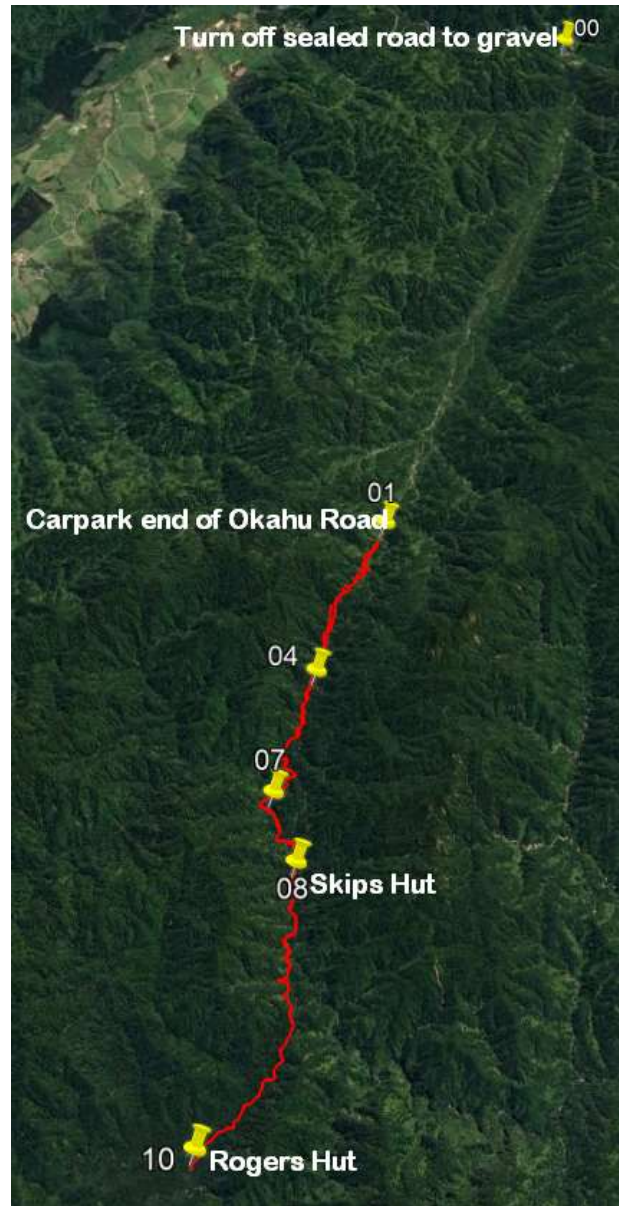
In fact there are really very few features to be seen on this outing apart from new sections of track – study the GPS trace and the marked track – plus several fairly stout bridges which mostly carry notices stating the load is only 1 person at a time. This has to be to ensure several cyclists do not follow each other on to the bridge as a group. However the botanist and ornithologist can have a field day as there is very luxuriant forest to pass through and the bird-life is quite impressive in that there is birdsong most of the time. The highlight can be the Whio (Blue Duck) which were spotted just north and south of Skips Hut.

### Whio



### Skips Hut





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
00	1934262	5721114	400	Turn off for Skips & Rogers to Okahu Road
01	1931495	5712255	590	Approximately 9km; Car Park at end of Okahu Road, very few surviving signs
02	1931395	5712037	616	7min (290m); Track log book post - box and book gone!
03	1931040	5711355	715	22min (1.3km); Start of long, moderate section of new track (see alignment)
04	1930608	5710013	617	44min (2.8km); Stream line with bridge and bypass
05	1930326	5708666	572	1:07min (4.68km); Another fairly large bridge on part of new bike track
06	1930128	5708499	569	1:10min (4.97km); Yet another bridge - huge long log as support for the deck
07	1930093	5708324	563	1:15min (5.30km); Last in a series of fairly large bridges
08	1930403	5707374	552	1:31min (6.55km); Whangatawhia (Skips) Hut on good benched track but with a few tricky bits
09	1930240	5704814	657	2:42min (10.14km); Level walking after 25min minor ascent on good wide track with moderate grade
10	1929313	5703837	561	3:06min (11.76km); Te Wairoa (Rogers) Hut - walk back out 2:46min



**Notes:** • **GPS** = Garmin GPSmap 62sc **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS **masl** = metres above sea level