

STANTON MEMORIAL

Topo50 Map: BJ34-Mnt Ruapehu

GPS: NZTM on WGS 84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo on SH1 down the lake to Turangi where there is a choice:

- Follow the Desert Highway (SH1) and turn off right on to SH46 for Rangipo
- Meet SH47 at a T-junction and turn left then turn off SH47 on to SH48 signposted for Whakapapa and the Chateau, or
- In Turangi turn off SH1 on to SH41 on the right and then turn left off SH41 on to SH47 and proceed as above. (This is shorter)

Pass the Chateau on the left and continue up Bruce Road parking in the "Round the Mountain" car park on the right hand side at the Scoria Flats (**SM01** 1463 masl).

Rough description: An 8km circular, mainly off-track challenging tramp that takes 5 – 6 hours. Outwards route is all off-track through some very rough terrain and ascends 265 metres in the first 2 km, 440m are lost over the next 4km then a 200m ascent from kilometre 6 to 7 and finally losing a few metres on the last kilometre back.

Detail: From the car park (**SM01** 1463masl) walk uphill parallel to and between the stream line and the Bruce Road going right round a "spiked" rock to cross the stream line after about 15 minutes. This crossing (**SM02** 1509masl) is about 300m metres downstream from a bluff and faces a tributary stream which cuts through the ridge of the moraine wall which is now ascended.

There is now soft walking gently upslope due south into a small valley-head (**SM03** 1547masl) where the route moves on to rock and the slope becomes relatively steep inducing some heavy breathing. Within 35 minutes the first real grunt starts going into a stream line, halfway up which there is a turn-off to the right (**SM04** 1626masl) as the route heads even steeper uphill to pass a massive rock. After 45 minutes a ridge crest is reached (**SM05** 1675masl) and the route heads diagonally southwards into the stream line whilst looking directly at one of the ski tows on the slopes of Ruapehu. Fifteen minutes later the crest (**SM06** 1719masl) of the next ridge is attained still looking at the ski tow. From here the route heads SW as ridge after ridge is summited with the highest one (**SM08** 1748masl) being reached after almost one and a half hours from where Mount Egmont (Taranaki) can be seen.

The spiked sock



South in stream line



Over to Taranaki



After this it is up and down, over and through several more valleys and ridges actually going down hill and losing altitude to stay away from the ever increasing bluffs and get over the next stream line. The descent (**SM09** 1698masl) through this next stream is pretty steep with some loose surface and a good waterfall can be seen upstream as the stepping stones are tested – they are quite safe. Once over this stream the route from the crest (**SM10** 1679masl) heads SE working down into the valley looking for the guiding cairns which are there but not easy to spot. The stream should be crossed (**SM11** 1680masl) at about 2:15 minutes once the cairns are spotted and then a long diagonal to the WNW following the cairns is taken to the crest (**SM12** 1704masl). This crest is actually above a huge overhang that is clearly seen from the previous ridge (**SM10**). Still following cairns a down-slope section starts (**SM13** 1691masl) after about 2:30 minutes and there is a view over the site of the Stanton Memorial whilst Taranaki can still be seen in the background.

Final descent to memorial

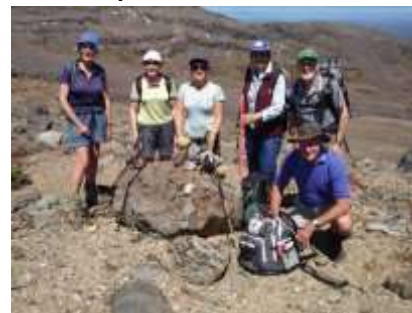


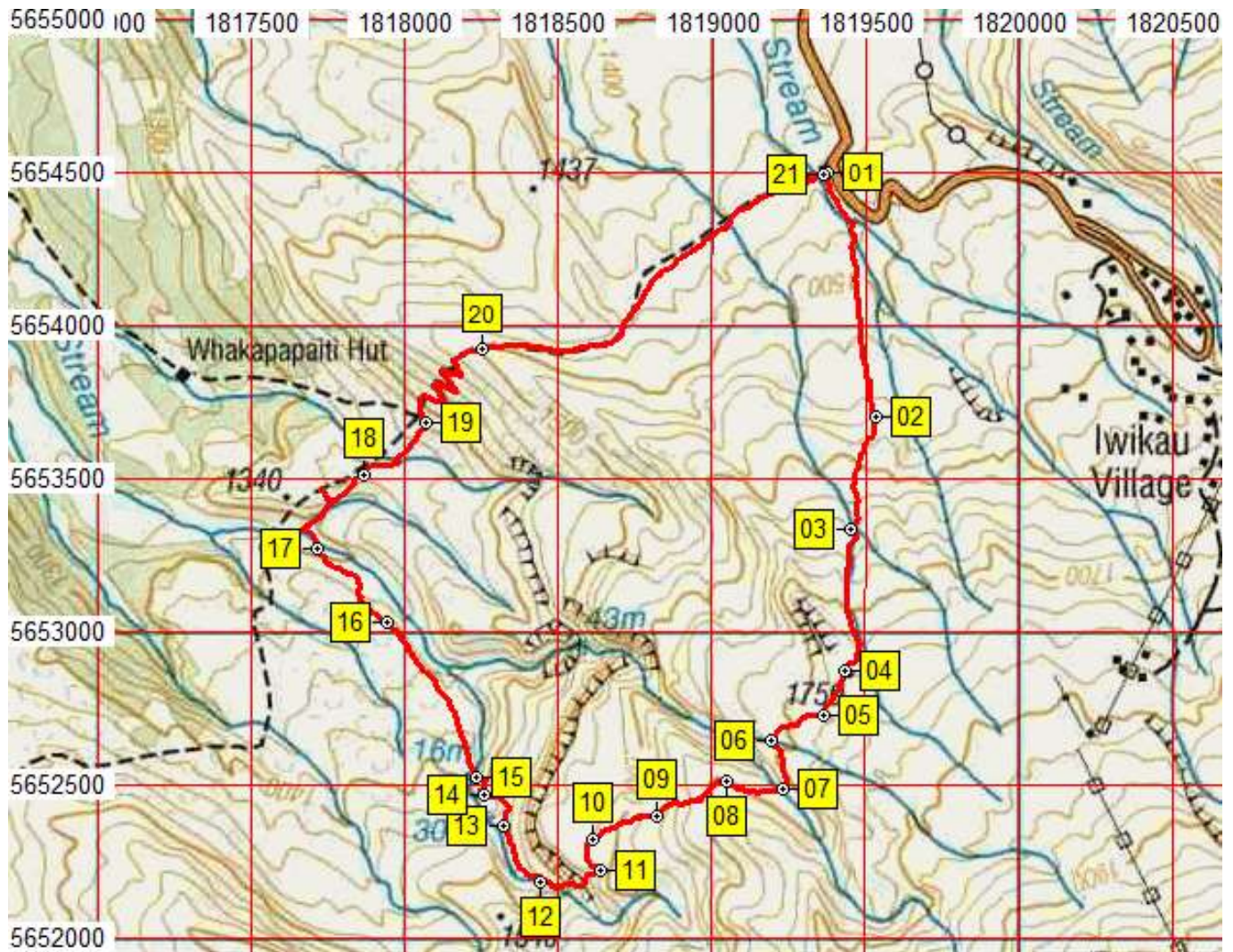
Fifteen to twenty minutes on this descent and the memorial is arrived at – the plaque is now not easy to read. *Basically it is in memory of eighteen year old Warwick Stanton who perished on the mountain in August 1931 when the party of Auckland students was caught out by the weather, split up and Warwick died whilst trying to reach help.* This is difficult terrain in summer time and a vicious area during inclement weather in winter time. From the memorial the return route heads due south down a very steep slope mapped as bluffs on the 50,000 scale topographic map. The footing is very loose in parts but the descent is quite safe if care is taken.



The route can be seen as the red line on sheet BJ34 whilst the blue line is road access from Taupo

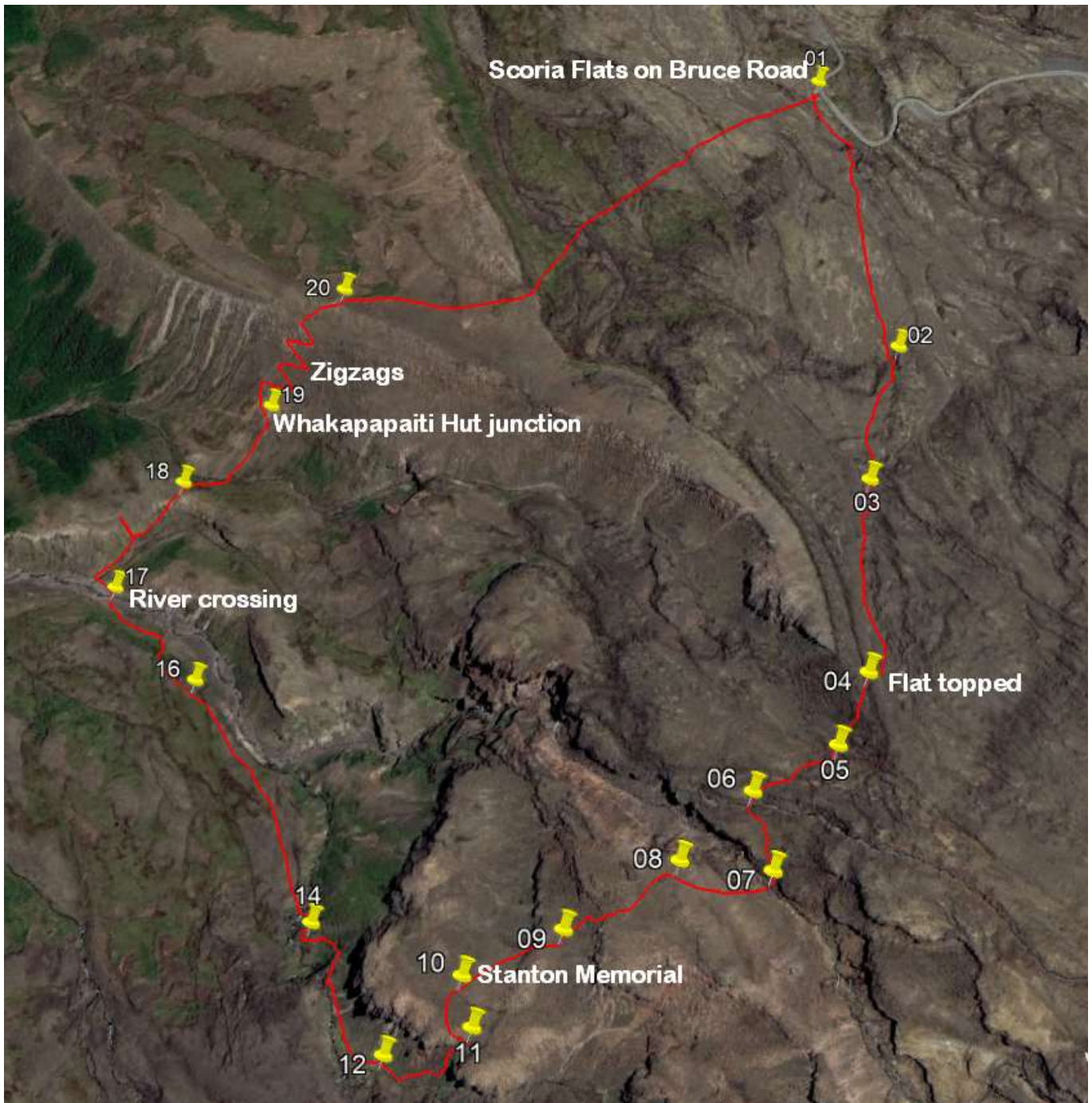
TTC trampers November 2007





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1819375	5654505	1467	Park at Scoria Flats then walk SSE upslope parallel to stream line and road
02	1819535	5653705	1554	23min (930m); enter mini valley and upwards to pass below pointed rock parallel to stream
03	1819455	5653338	1643	39min (1.34km); on solid rocky ridge above deep stream lines on both sides
04	1819432	5652871	1742	1:07min (1.86km); flat top ridge slightly SE of Dinosaur shaped outcrops, head SW to cross valleys
05	1819367	5652729	1714	1:29min (2.06km); rocky valley crossing reddish rocks on basic track
06	1819195	5652647	1684	1:37min (2.26km); steep loose slope, over flowing stream below rocky gully channel - many bluffs
07	1819232	5652489	1679	1:45min (2.44km); cross stream at cairns, waterfalls up and down-stream then long diagonal WNW
08	1819051	5652510	1707	1:51min (2.63km); above shelves to SW, big boulders includes Stanton Memorial after following cairns
09	1818818	5652395	1640	2:02min (2.94km); at big boulder with cairn on top on first shelf after loose, bouldery descent
10	1818613	5652320	1585	2:12min (3.18km); Stanton Memorial - rock with plaque on W side. Head due S/SSE for descent
11	1818637	5652219	1581	2:28min (3.35km); small cairn then loose, very steep descent on vestiges of track round bluff
12	1818443	5652184	1477	2:39min (3.56km); bottom of very steep descent facing small waterfall, go N parallel to stream
13	1818320	5652365	1460	2:47min (3.81km); on large rock above waterfall, great views. Stay on right bank for tricky descent
14	1818257	5652468	1412	3:21min (4.05km); rocks below large falls. Stay on right bank, down into veg line get below falls
15	1818234	5652525	1380	3:24min (4.12km); easy crossing directly below waterfall then up steeply on loose surface
16	1817940	5653030	1350	3:40min (474km); parallel on stream left bank to rocky outcrop then down cleft to stream edge
17	1817718	5653275	1300	3:48min (5.11km); steep bank to valley, cross Whakapapa tributary and pick up poled track to NE
18	1817865	5653516	1347	4:01min (5.58km); minor crest after grunt up track; looking at zig zags above Whakapapa Hut
19	1818069	5653686	1393	4:09min (5.89km); T-junction with left for Whakapapa Hut and right for Bruce Road
20	1818253	5653924	1507	4:29min (6.54km); crest above the zig zags after 15-20 minute steady grind upwards
21	1819363	5654494	1460	4:54min (7.91km); edge of the car park on Scoria Flats, Bruce Road





Descent from memorial



This steep descent takes about 20 minutes with superb views of the bluffs above and the waterfall below to act as distractions. Once at the bottom (**SM15** 1477masl) head north, down on the vestiges of a footpath parallel to the stream which has several waterfalls in its course. Good local views are had from a huge promontory-like rock (**SM16** 1413masl) at the foot of a steep descent past one of the waterfalls. Five minutes later (4 hours total time) there is a choice of going left (**SM17** 1391masl) over a large awkward rock in a bit of a cleft hard-in against the bluffs to get down past another waterfall – for the hobbits this is not too easy as short legs fail to find the necessary ground that is out of sight.. However, it is possible to go to the right of the waterfall and descend the open slopes on that side – but they are pretty steep.

For the next kilometre or so the walking is straight-forward progressing NW down a gentle slope parallel to the river on the right. Use stepping stones to cross the river (**SM18** 1295masl), part of the Whakapapaiti, by descending a steep bank into the valley and walking down stream till a poled track on the other side can be seen.

Pick up this poled track, part of the “Round the Mountain Track” heading NE and towards the zig zags above the Whakapapaiti Hut which should have been visible from further back. A minor crest (**SM19** 1347masl) is reached in about 4:45 minutes and from here the zig zags can be seen – a little grunt awaits! Five minutes later a T-junction (**SM20** 1384masl) is met when the path from the Whakapapaiti Hut comes in from the left. The Bruce Road is noted as being one hour away by going uphill to the right. It is a grunt up the zig zags but many trampers cut the time required from 15-20 minutes to 10 – 15 minutes by going straight up and quite soon the crest plus a rest is attained (**SM21** 1499masl).

It is only another 30 minutes back to the Scoria Flats car park from here but there are a few little valleys and dips to cross just to add a slight sting-in-the-tail to this challenging tramp.

Series of waterfalls



Stanton Memorial rock



STANTON MEMORIAL - for those who don't know the history of this rock:

In 1931 fourteen Auckland University students set out from the Chateau to climb Ruapehu. The weather was fine. Blizzard conditions struck while the party was at the summit and visibility was nil. While descending the Whakapapa glacier, the students drifted across to the left and became hopelessly lost. The party split into several groups and spent between one and three nights on the mountain, still in blizzard conditions.

All survived apart from Warwick Stanton, aged 18, who set off on the third day in an effort to get help. His body was found after three weeks, in the forest on a tributary of the Makatote.

The large rock, with the plaque, which we know as the Stanton memorial, was where the party spent the first night. The grid reference for the Stanton memorial on the 260/S20 (Ohakune) map is 28.6 / 14.0 (Full grid of the memorial is shown as waypoint SM14).

Memorial plaque



Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS Garmin GPSmap 60CSx • WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit • masl = metres above sea level 	Distance and Altitude Data	
		Altitude range	560 metres
		Overall ascent	525 metres
		Overall descent	660m
		Distance walked	8.3km
		Total time	5 hours 38 minutes
		Walking time	5 hours