

## STANTON MEMORIAL bluff walk

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:

- Desert Highway (SH1) and turn off right on to SH46 for Rangipo
- Meet SH47 at a T-junction and 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 (**WP00**<sup>1463 masl</sup>).

**Rough description:** This was an attempt to scout a new route to the Stanton Memorial on the high ridges from the Round-the-Mountain track (RMT) heading S to SSE, the RMT being followed for about 18min (1km) to the SW from Scoria Flats (**WP00**) This proved to be quite a short tramp but with some exciting terrain to cross and fantastic views to admire – however it would not be suggested as suitable for the faint hearted.

**Detail:** From the car park (**WP00**<sup>1463masl</sup>) head off to the SW on the RMT as if going to Whakapapaiti. After about quarter of an hour where the track heads westwards (**WP01**<sup>1457masl</sup>) head more or less due S towards the ridge ahead. Cross the ridge (**WP02**<sup>1544masl</sup>) then head SE to cross the stream line (**WP03**<sup>1489masl</sup>) in very rough terrain.

A SE heading was maintained to avoid the bluffs marked on the map but soon the going got quite hard with awkward footwork and relatively steep, rocky slopes. The 1500m contour was then followed to the SW in order to check if there was any way down from the ridge, over the stream ahead and up on to the next shelf area – this is the shelf where the memorial is to be found about another km to the SSW. However, around **WP04**<sup>1601masl</sup> there was no safe way to proceed to the W or the S, the whole area being severely protected by bluffs. The route was now back uphill to the SE, over the ridge and down into the very steep valley virtually following the edge of the bluff – fantastic views available from a narrow cleft at **WP05**<sup>1649masl</sup> – to meet up with the original route previously mapped at **WP06**<sup>1701masl</sup> then across the stream line at **WP07**<sup>1684masl</sup> in this very deep, highly eroded valley. This and the previous stream are tributaries of the Whakapapaiti Stream.

### The edge of the bluffs



### TTC tramper out-bluffed



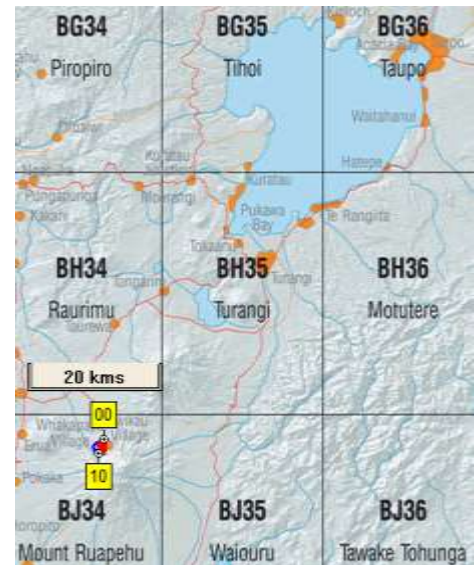
Once over this stream the route heads uphill on a side more or less to the W then, from the crest (**WP08**<sup>1704masl</sup>), heads SW working down-slope on to a shelf like feature. All of this is very rough going and then there is another steep descent that leads directly to the huge boulder on which the Stanton memorial is found.

### Final descent to memorial

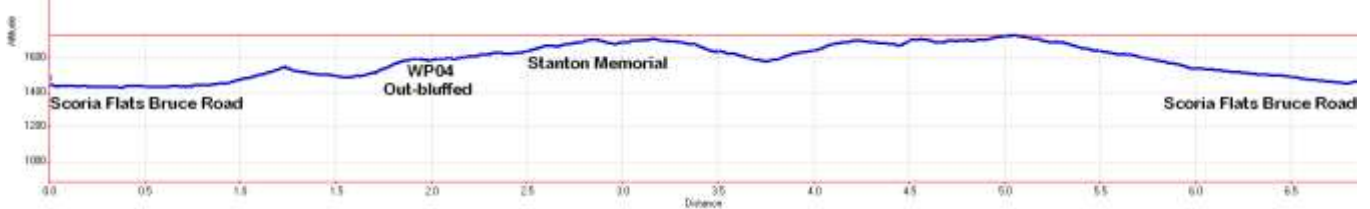
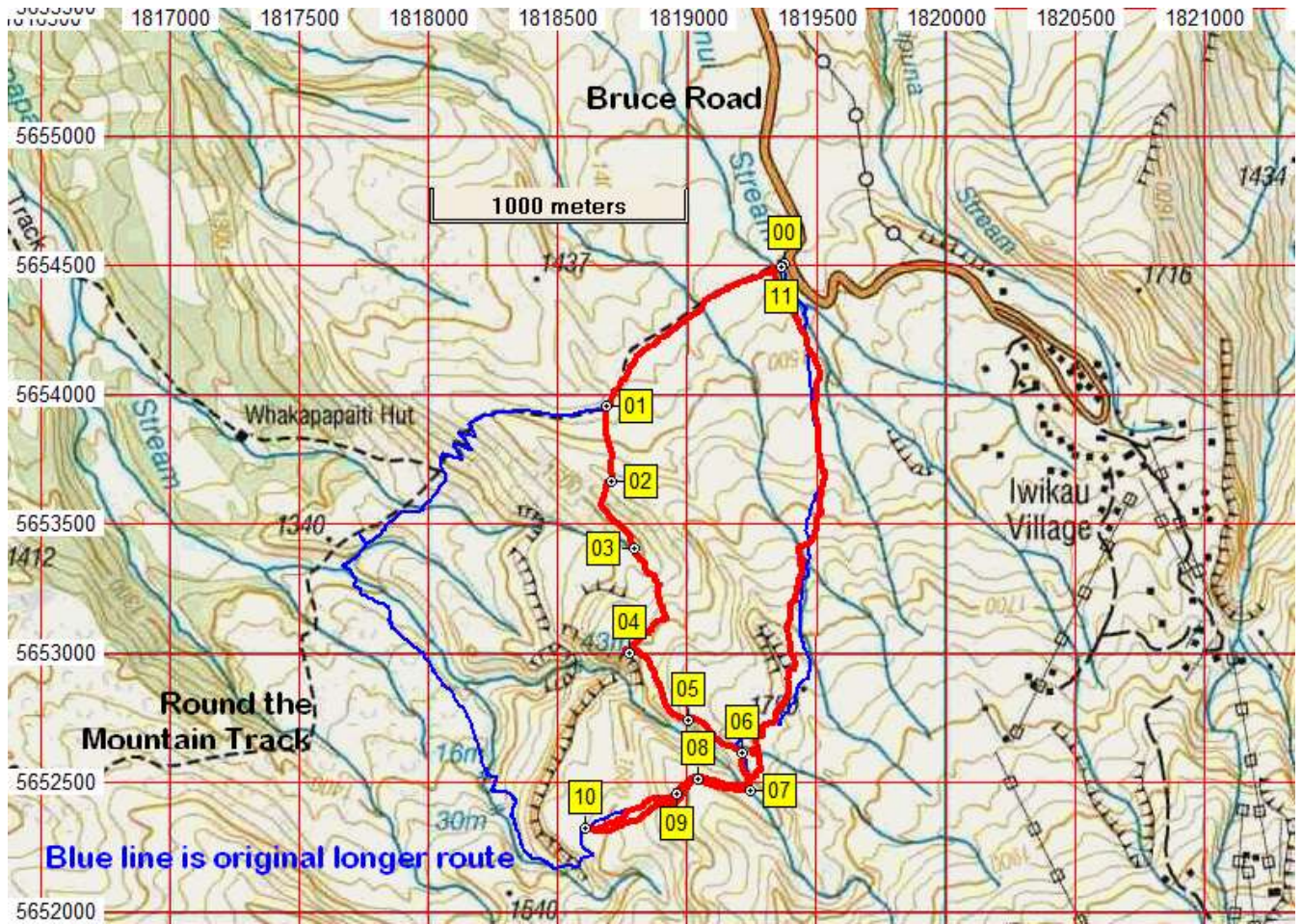


The plaque is now not easy to read. *Basically it is in memory of eighteen year old Warwick Stanton who perished on the mountain in August 1931 when the party of Auckland students was caught out by the weather, split up and Warwick died whilst trying to reach help.* This is difficult terrain in summer time and a vicious area during inclement weather in winter time.

From the memorial there is a choice of return routes: one 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 – this route is described in the original Stanton memorial write-up. The other alternative is as shown on the following map and leads back to Scoria Flats car park in less than two hours.

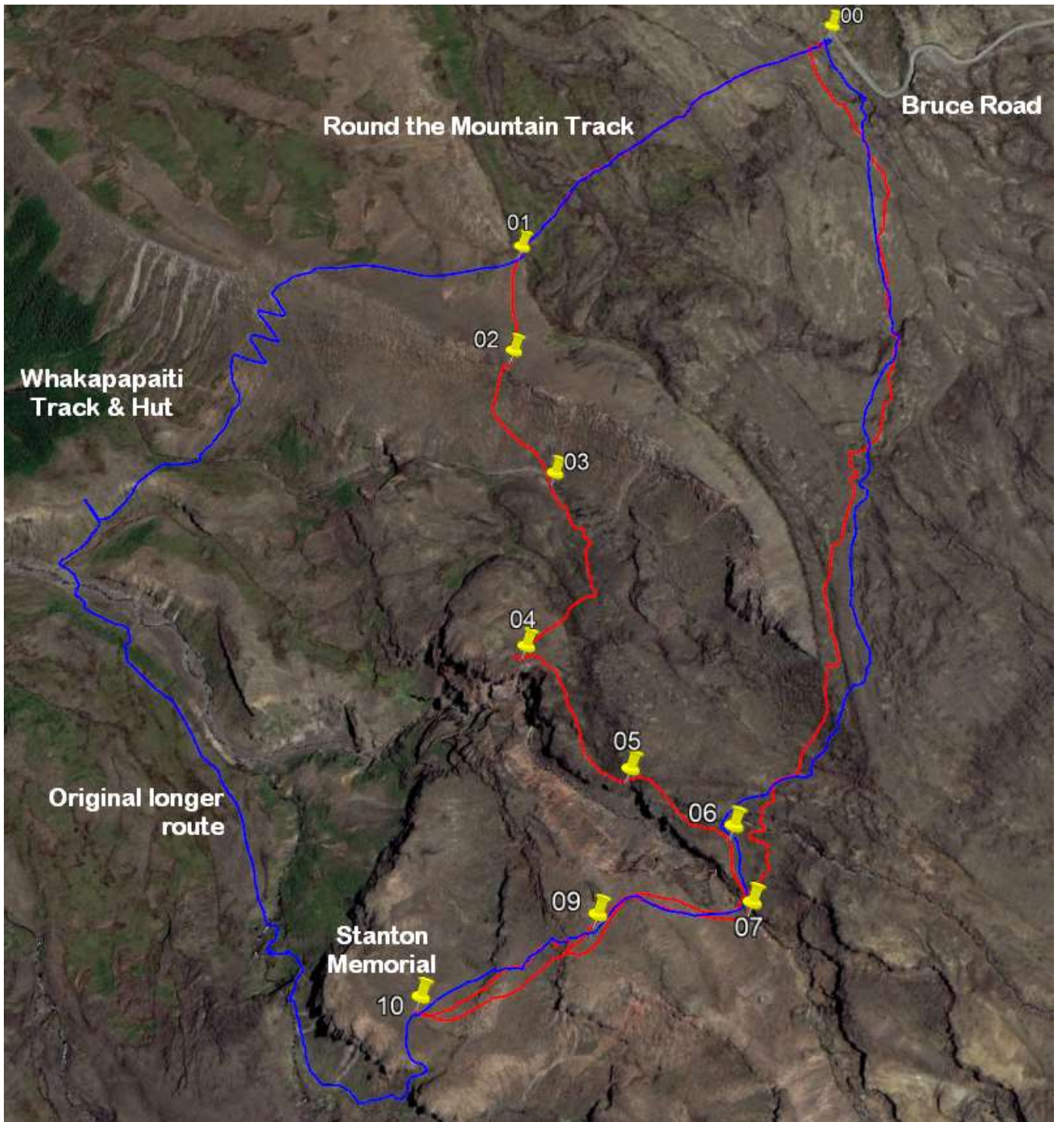


*WP00 is the starting point on Bruce Road whilst WP10 is the Memorial location*



| Name | Easting | Northing | Alt... | Description  |
|------|---------|----------|--------|--|
| 00   | 1819376 | 5654507  | 1463   | Park at Scoria Flats car park on Bruce Road                                    |
| 01   | 1818690 | 5653955  | 1457   | 18min (936m); branch off left from the Round the Mountain track heading S      |
| 02   | 1818706 | 5653668  | 1544   | 29min (1.23km); cross first gullied stream line heading SSW                    |
| 03   | 1818795 | 5653405  | 1489   | 41min (1.57km); cross second (larger) gullied stream line heading SE           |
| 04   | 1818776 | 5653003  | 1601   | 1:17min (2.10km); totally out-bluffed. Turn, head uphill to SE                 |
| 05   | 1819002 | 5652738  | 1649   | 1:35min (2.53km); fantastic view down bluff through narrow chasm               |
| 06   | 1819211 | 5652611  | 1701   | 1:50min (2.80km); back-tracked to meet known original route inwards            |
| 07   | 1819245 | 5652470  | 1684   | 1:57min (2.96km); major stream crossing in deeply incised valley               |
| 08   | 1819042 | 5652512  | 1704   | 2:05min (3.18km); on crest above steep slopes down to shelves to SW            |
| 09   | 1818961 | 5652455  | 1691   | 2:07min (3.28km); on cairned downslope leading to shelf above Stanton Memorial |
| 10   | 1818609 | 5652324  | 1582   | 2:49min (3.75km); Stanton Memorial   |
| 11   | 1819363 | 5654494  | 1460   | 4:26min (6.85km); return via original route to edge of the car park            |





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