

MOERANGI MTB Track

260 Series Map: Whirinaki V18

Topo50 Maps: BG38 Wairapukao & BG39 Ruatahuna

How to get to START: Exit Taupo on SH5 for Rotorua and on passing Rainbow Mountain go right on SH38 for Murapara and head for Waikaremoana. 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 (**WP01**^{590masl}) is at 9km. The car park is an open grassy area with two large DoC toilets.

Rough description: This long walk can be done in either direction and, as described below, was done starting at Okahu Road as this gives an easier first day of around 12km, however it does mean that the second day is longer and harder. Three huts are passed so there are ample stop-over opportunities. If necessary the one-overnighter described can be extended by staying in say Rogers then Moerangi Hut – or vice versa if travelling in the opposite direction. The track is a shared MTB–walking track and is a relatively easy walk as it is well graded, wide and easy to follow as it passes through very lush forest with good birdlife. Blue duck are often heard and seen, Kaka keep doing fly-overs and smaller birds such as Tom tits often come calling.

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Location and Access

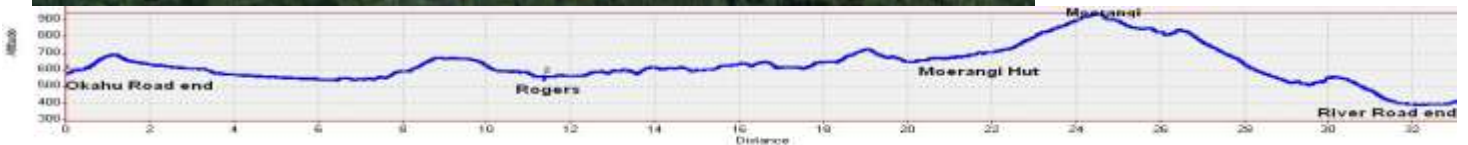
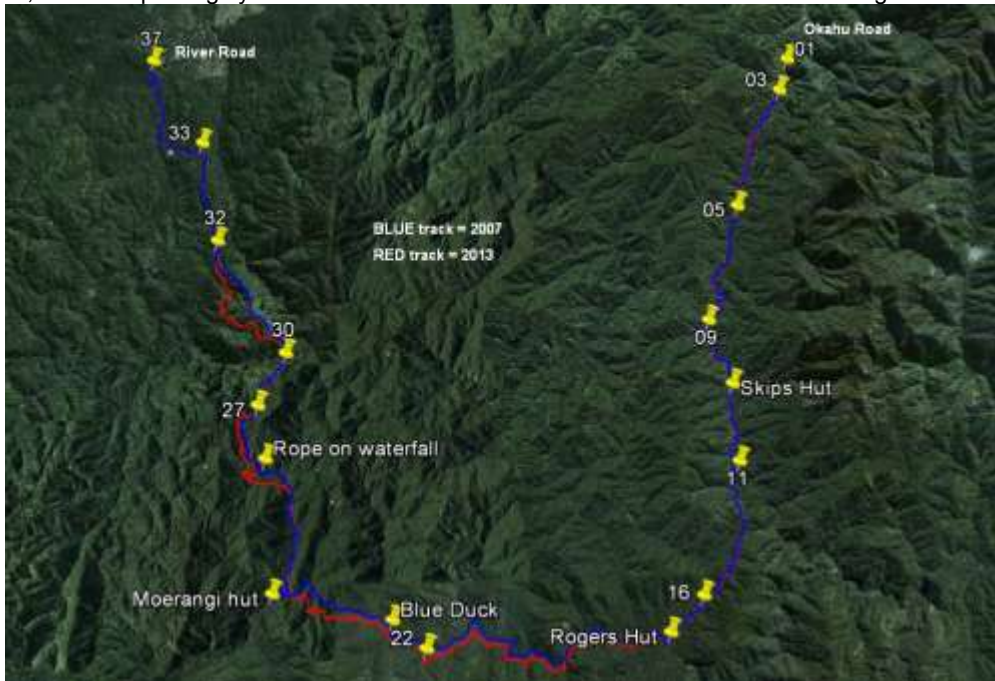


Day one as described is around four hours whilst Day two is seven hours or so with 340m ascent in getting to Rogers and over 800m on day two.

Time taken : 11hrs 20min
Total Distance : 33.127 Km
GPS Distance : 36.8km
Minimum Speed : 0.000 KPH
Maximum Speed : 11.047 KPH
Average Speed : 1.203 KPH

Minimum Altitude : 388 Meters
Maximum Altitude : 937 Meters
Total Ascent : 1158metres

Going in the opposite direction and starting at River Road gives about 200m more ascent as can be seen in the walk profile.



Detail. The carpark (**WP01**^{590masl}) is large with ample space plus there are two DoC toilets but virtually all of the notices in the shelter at the start of the track have been vandalised. The track heads gently uphill to the SW and in 6minutes the post where the track log-book was once stored is reached and three minutes later the metal gates (anti-horse?) are met. Within 20mins or so a long moderate ascent starts (**WP04**^{715masl}) on a section of newer track – compare the GPS track and the mapped track on the map. Most of the “features” on the track are bridges (**WP5** – 9) and it is well worth looking at the construction of these as there is a massive log acting as the main support. There is also one area of landslip but this is minor and seems stable. Shortly before reaching Skips Hut (**WP10**^{552masl}) keep eyes and ears open for Blue Duck.



Bridge construction

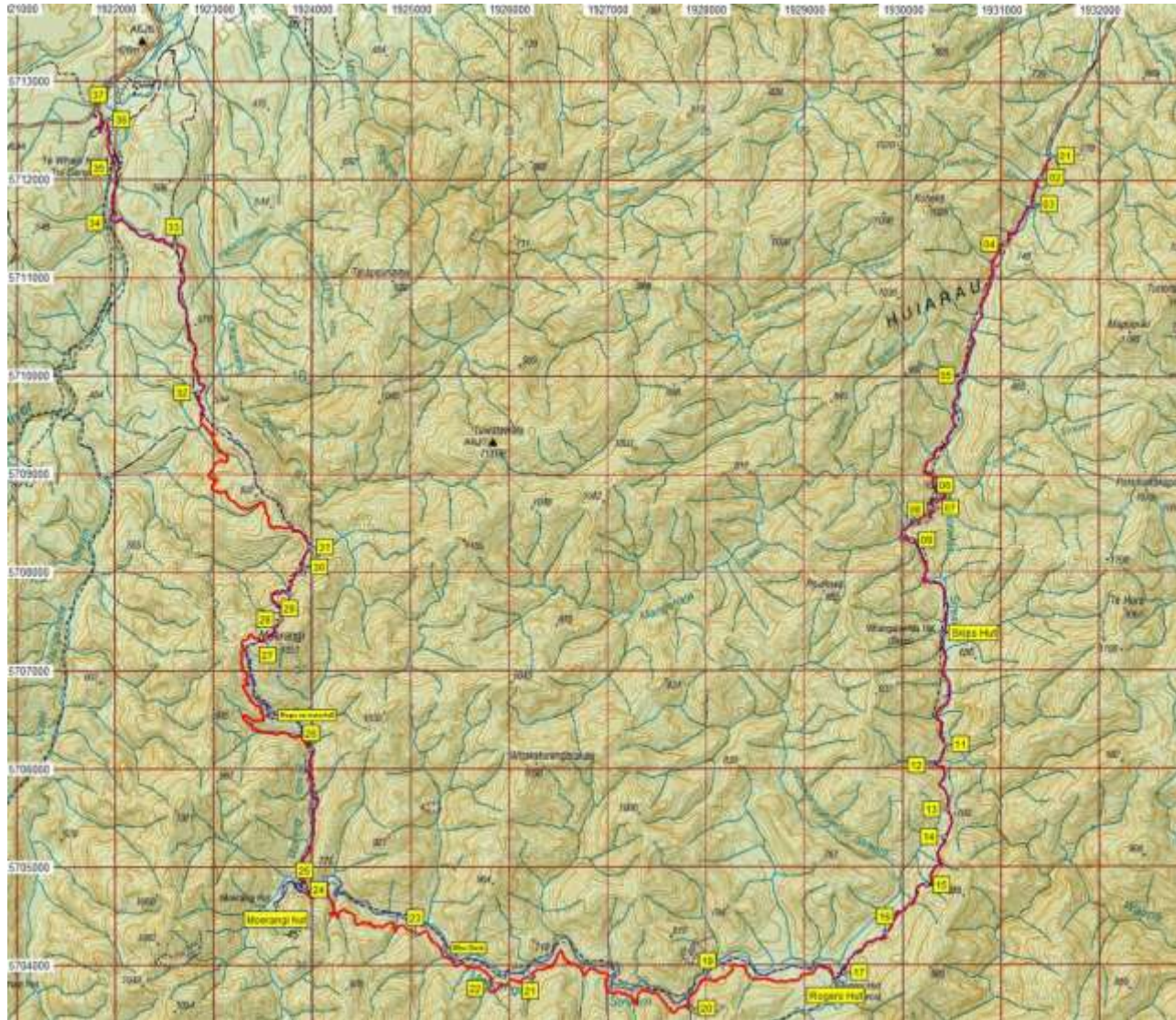


Minor landslip zone



Blue Duck

Map with GPS data



On the map the RED trail is the current MTB track whilst the BLUE is the track back in 2007 – this was more a route than track.

NZ Grid Waypoints

Na...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	2841549	6273980	590	Car Park at end of Okahu Road, very few surviving signs
02	2841449	6273763	616	6min (270m); Track log book post – box and book gone!
03	2841389	6273484	615	9min (550m); Cycle / horse gate on track
04	2841094	6273081	715	20-25min (1.2km); Start of long, moderate section of new track (see alignment)
05	2840661	6271742	617	45-50min (2.8km); Stream line with bridge and bypass
06	2840329	6270634	568	50min - 1hr (4.2km); Relatively high wooden bridge
07	2840378	6270396	572	55min - 1:20min (4.6km); Another fairly large bridge on part of new bike track
08	2840180	6270230	569	1:00-1:24min (4.9km); Yet another bridge - huge long log as support for the deck
09	2840145	6270055	563	1:05 - 1:30min (5.3km); Last in a series of fairly large bridges
Skips ...	2840454	6269106	552	1:17-1:50min (6.6km); Whangatawhia (Skips) Hut on good benched track but with a few tricky bits
11	2840483	6267969	587	2:40min (7.9km); High point after long easy grade ascent
12	2840347	6267764	603	2:46min (8.2km); Loop into small valley to cross eroded stream line
13	2840501	6267319	682	3hrs (8.8km); More or less level crest with views to NE
14	2840474	6267036	680	3:11min (9.1km); +/- level then long, gentle descent
15	2840288	6266548	657	3:19min (9.8km); Level walking on good wide track with moderate grade
16	2839865	6266073	588	3:30min (10.5km); Sharp left on yellow bike sign to easy descent
17	2839451	6265658	558	3:41min (11.2km); Wide wooden bridge just before view of Rogers Hut
Roger...	2839368	6265571	560	3:50min (11.4km); Rogers (Te Wairoa) Hut overnight
19	2838059	6265622	593	Day 2 28min (1.7km); Huge drop below track, scary for bikers
20	2837903	6265296	574	35min (2.2km); Up-valley loop to cross minor stream then upslope
21	2836263	6265626	628	1:28min (5km); Large slip face to admire and pass
22	2835868	6265502	608	1:41min (5.6km); Wooden bridge roughly two hours from Rogers Hut
23	2835099	6266065	646	2hrs (6.7km); Crest of long grunt uphill
24	2833970	6266516	649	2:32min (8.6km); Junction for Moerangi Hut
25	2833976	6266552	645	2:34min (8.7km); Bridge at stream confluence
26	2834042	6267945	693	3:25min (10.5km); Over bridge and moderately steep uphill
27	2833606	6269045	924	4:52min (13.2km); Spectacular views to west on steep slope below Moerangi
28	2833748	6269259	885	4:56min (13.5km); Steep up and down through valley head
29	2833829	6269521	849	5:05min (14km); Through gully then rolling area with Rata on trees
30	2833974	6269794	846	5:10min (14.5km); Branch off right for Moerangi Helipad
31	2834038	6269997	828	5:16min (14.8km); Old ridge path for Moerangi Peak enters from RHS
32	2832895	6271567	530	6:15min (17.8km); Meet old Forest Service road and turn to right(NE) rolling to hilly
33	2832657	6273099	496	6:43min (19.7km); Left downhill off old quad bike track
34	2832016	6273295	397	6:55min (20.6km); Meet Whirinaki Track and go right to the N
35	2832061	6273858	402	7:05min (21.3km); Junction to waterfall loop just before bridge over canyon
36	2831968	6274339	408	7:12min (21.8km); Track log book. Lush forest many birds with informative signs ahead
37	2831890	6274444	411	7:20min (22.1km); Shelter at track end to River Road car park
Blue D...	2835391	6265920	646	Blue duck seen 2007
Moera...	2833685	6266360	695	Moerangi Hut
Rope o...	2833638	6268287	753	Top of minor waterfall with knotted rope for descent (2007)

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1931495	5712255
1931395	5712037
1931335	5711758
1931040	5711355
1930606	5710013
1930277	5708904
1930326	5708666
1930128	5708499
1930093	5708324
1930403	5707374
1930433	5706237
1930297	5706031
1930452	5705586
1930425	5705302
1930240	5704814
1929817	5704338
1929402	5703922
1929319	5703834
1929009	5703864
1927853	5703559
1926212	5703887
1925816	5703762
1925045	5704325
1923915	5704775
1923921	5704812
1923966	5706206
1923549	5707307
1923690	5707521
1923771	5707783
1923916	5708057
1923980	5708260
1922835	5709831
1922595	5711382
1921953	5711560
1921897	5712123
1921903	5712604
1921825	5712709
1925338	5704180
1923630	5704619
1923582	5706546

Skips (Whangatawhia) is a relatively new hut, well equipped, has a large picnic table outside but there seems to be a dearth of useable fuel for the stove to burn. The toilet can be hard to find for some and it is off the track that heads for Rogers (Te Wairoa) and uphill from a large marker post. One of the features of the track from here on is that there are several small loops upstream on side streams to get over them and there is one longish, gentle ascent but within about 3:15 or so there is level walking (WP15657masl) then there is a “bike” sign for a hard left turn to a gentle descent. Ten minutes after this left turn there is a wide wooden bridge (WP17558masl) to cross and almost immediately there is a flash of orange as Rogers Hut (WP18560masl) comes into view. Constructed in 1952 this hut is not everyone’s choice to stay in but it really has character and has all the signs of being a favourite for many – like names put on tin lids and nailed to the beams. There are six bunks but only the lower two are for larger sized people whilst contortionist abilities are required for the middle and upper rows. There is a good bench, outside water tank plus extra table and the small wood-burner could / would be good if there is any wood dry enough to burn.



Rogers Hut



Stained glass on level three



Names on tin lids

Day two starts with an easy wander to the NW on the clearly marked MTB track to immediately pass through a clearing that looks like it was designed for deer, though none were seen! For the next two to three hours this is all on good, well graded track which bears no relationship to the old track – and there are numerous warning sign posts for bikers with **XX** marking slightly dodgy stuff ahead and **XXX** signs which really should be paid attention to. One XXX comes up within half an hour as there is a huge drop off the track on the RHS (WP19593masl). There are not too many features to catch one’s attention but the forest is a delight to walk through so who needs scenery as such? After 90 minutes there is a large slip face (WP21628masl) to admire and ten minutes later there is a large wooden bridge (WP22608masl) then there is a long “grunt” uphill (WP23646masl). In about 2:30min the junction (WP24649masl) for the Moerangi Hut is reached but that is 500m away uphill but can be visited if desired. On crossing the bridge after the junction a long ascent commences to eventually allow spectacular views (WP27924masl) to the west on the steep slopes below Moerangi. The terrain is then rolling to hilly (WP29849masl) and an area with a lot of rata on the trees is traversed before arriving at the small junction (WP30846masl) for the helipad. They say it is all downhill from here on and it is as one passes the old track for Moerangi Peak (WP31828masl) to then arrive at the junction with the old forestry service road (WP32530masl). On turning right here the terrain again becomes rolling to hilly with several quite short rather steep sections to tackle but eventually there is a turn off to the left (WP33496masl) downhill off the quad bike trail. Ten minutes down this and the junction with the Whirinaki Track is reached to turn right to the north passing the junction (WP35402masl) to the Waterfall Track minutes later. Then it is over the bridge of the canyon, past the track log-book in lush forest well supplied with very informative signs on the flora and fauna to arrive at the ‘shelter” (WP37411masl) at the track end and the River Road carpark.



Long way to drop



Some going up some down



Stony slip line to cross



Cross-over groups meet up



Moerangi Hut junction



Bridge on the Canyon

Notes:	GPS Garmin GPSMap 62sc	WP Waypoint taken by GPS	masl = metres above sea level
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