

BELL ROCK and other short walks

260 Series Map: Te Haroto, V19

Topo50 Map: BH39 Putorino

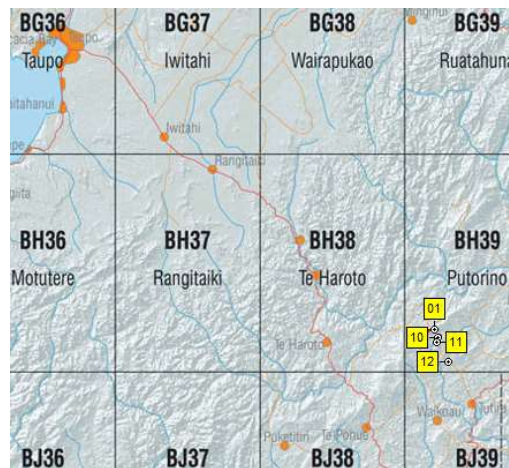
NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo on Lake Terrace and go left on SH5 to Napier
- In 40 min pass Lochinver Station on the right
- 45 mins pass "Scenic Lookout" on the left
- 54 mins pass Tarawera Tavern
- 1:05 pass Summit Café
- 1:15 mins left to Waitara Road
- 1:25 road becomes gravel and enter logging area
- 1:35 mins pass notice for "Kiwi Reserve"
- 1:45 mins right at T-junction to Pohukuru Road
- 1:58 mins "Boundary Stream Scenic Reserve"
- 2 hours park at start of Bell Rock Loop track on right (WP01)

Total driving time is 2 hours (122km) to reach the start. Much of this route is on winding, steep, gravel road which is heavily used by logging traffic.



Rough description: A long time is spent traveling to the start of these short walks but on clear days the views from Bell Rock are well worthwhile – however in September 2007 all that was seen was cloud, rain, sleet and snow accompanied by a biting southerly wind. In good conditions the 7km walk takes 3 hours. The forest walk on the Tumanako loop is in wonderful forest with very informative notice whilst time to walk round the Pan Pac kiwi crèche is time well spent

Detail: BELL ROCK From the car park (WP01 771masl) at the side of the road just before the DOC office the track, which is very eroded at the start, climbs quite steeply up through mature forest. The main features on this section are two WETA apartments, as they are called and shown below. These are worth looking at to see if there are any residents within. The first apartment is reached within 15 minutes (WP02 830masl). The bird life is good probably due to the density of predator traps in the area – one of the new self-resetting models can be spotted (WP04 920masl). The fence line (WP05 944masl) from forest to grassland is reached in 45-60min then there is a notice at a T-junction (WP06 950masl) indicating Bell Rock is 1 hour to the left. This section is on degraded quad bike track through rolling to hilly terrain with a few noticeable grunts. At 2km (WP07 964masl) from a degraded section of track there are expansive views northwards.

Good information



WETA apartment

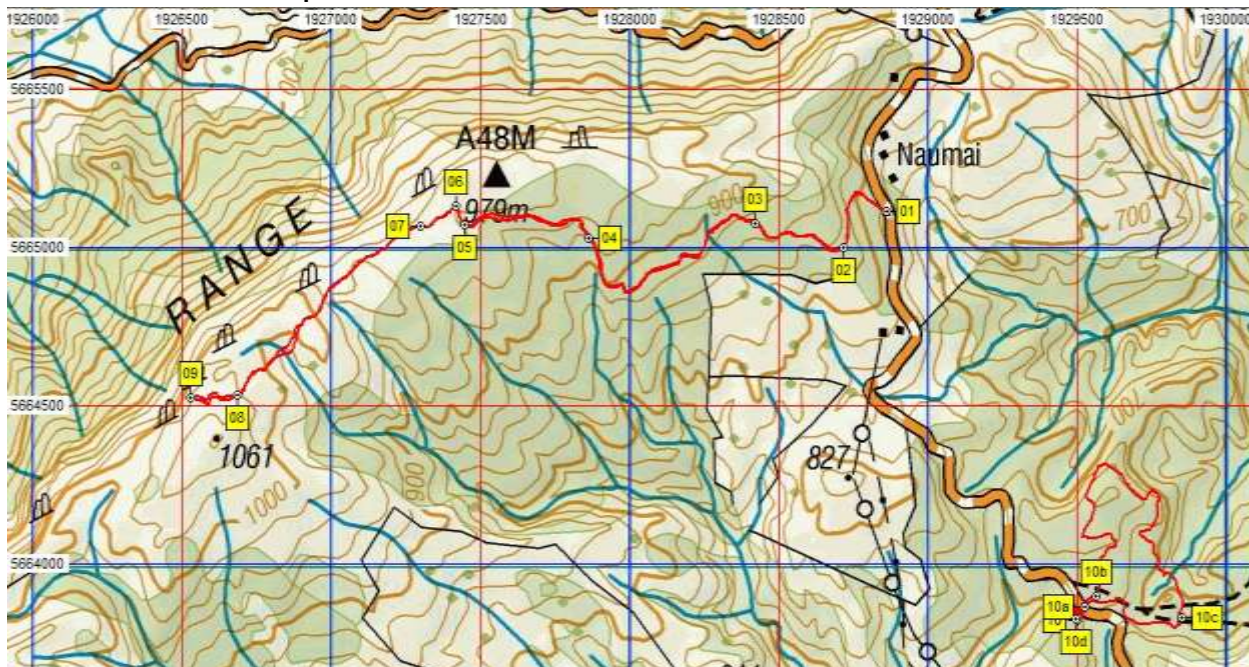


After what is probably the steepest ascent there is another stile (WP08 1015masl) but this one is a tad unfriendly as it carries barbed wire then it is up and over a small grassy ridge with a final short climb to the edge of the bluff (WP09 1026masl) at Bell Rock. The bluff is extremely steep so care must be taken if having a close look at the rock.



The walk back down from Bell Rock is considerably quicker than the ascent – the loop walk was not undertaken and the inwards and outwards routes were exactly the same

Bell Rock track and Tumanako loop

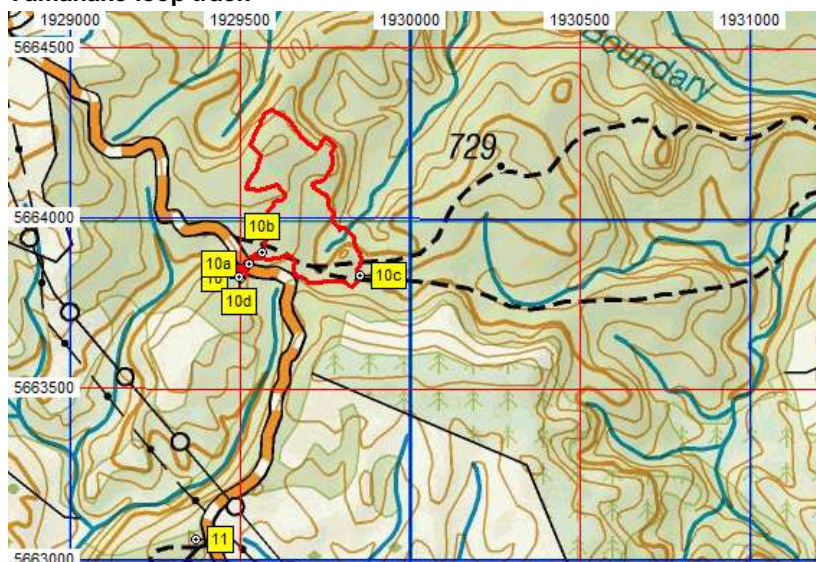


N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1928784	5664455	771	Park at track end with notice boards
02	1928641	5664341	830	300m (12min); Weta house in area with many traps and trap-lines
03	1928345	5664418	867	700m (20min); Second weta house, many fuschias
04	1927787	5664372	920	1.5km (45min); Modern self resetting predator trap
05	1927373	5664415	944	2km (1:03min); Stile over fence at bushline
06	1927341	5664472	950	2.1km (1:05min); Left at signpost on quad bike track in rolling to hilly grass area
07	1927222	5664410	964	2.2km (1:09min); Eroded track section with huge views northwards
08	1926610	5663874	1015	3km (1:30min); Stile with barbed wire on steep grassy slope
09	1926453	5663868	1026	3.2km (1:40min); Edge of bluff at Bell Rock with fantastic views
10	1929425	5663165	719	Kaka reserve opposite Tumanako Loop
10a	1929449	5663207	713	05-SEP-07 Car park for Tumanako Loop
10b	1929488	5663243	717	1 minute; Y-fork within 30 secs, go left
10c	1929777	5663174	694	20 min; Y-fork go right for car park
10d	1929423	5663169	715	30 min; Toilet block on opposite side of road from tracks
11	1929294	5662398		Bellbird walks
12	1931200	5659150	482	Pan pac kiwi creche
13	1931599	5659529	487	900m (30min); Junction to longer Thomas's Bush walk
14	1931309	5659305	483	1.3km (40min); Weta house



The Tumanako Loop. The start to the this walk is only 5 minutes further down the road with a well sign posted car park with ample information boards – there is also a toilet. There are several walks detailed on the notice boards in the car park but on the day only one loop was done as it just was not conducive to stop and read the information boards on the way round. But, with so much information plus labelled trees these would be most interesting walks.

Tumanako loop track



Whether or not the loop walk is undertaken it is well worthwhile stopping at this point and going into the area across the road via the red carved Maori Gate. There are many more information boards and a Kaka Reserve (WP10719masl).



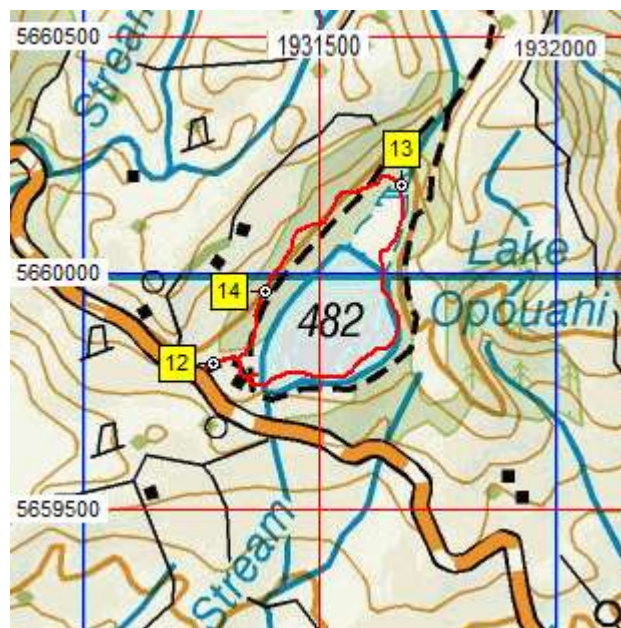
The green cage seen here is constructed of fairly heavy gauge plastic coated wire mesh and there are a few cleverly constructed feeding and bird drinking devices to be studied and understood – obviously the birds work them out, we think we did.

Continue to drive southwards on Pohokura Road and yet more walks can be found – the Bell Bird Loop Walk WP11 was not tackled.

Pan Pac Kiwi Creche: A further 5-6km down Pohokura Road the Pan Pac Kiwi Crèche is found with an impressive predator fence including electrification. Two walks are advertised from here and on the day only the walk circling the lake was undertaken. This is a delightful stroll of an hour with plenty to keep most people informed and interested though two items did cause some puzzlement.



What exactly is this dome shaped stainless steel device?



Just who was Stephen John Webby – “Jack of all Trades” and “Father of Many”

Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS Garmin GPSmap 62sc • WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit • masl = metres above sea level
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