Mt Isobel via Chatterton River Track, Hanmer Forest Park

WILD FILE
Access Through Hanmer Springs to Chatterton Road, west of the village. A locked gate beside the motor camp will necessitate an additional 1.3km hike up the road to the trackhead.
Grade Easy-moderate
Distance 12.1km
Total ascent 1036m
Time 5-6hr via Mt Isobel; 2-3hr return via the valley tracks
Map BU24

Description
Mt Isobel dominates every angle of Hanmer Springs and is arguably Canterbury's most climbed mountain. There are several routes to the summit with Chattertons Track to Jacks Pass offering an interesting short forest walk not often on the radar of those who visit the mountain retreat..

This river trail, beginning not far north of the motor camp in the Chatterton Valley, is an easy introduction to what could be termed a tramper's track, yet still with enough aids, like footbridges over some of the stream crossings, and a well marked trail winding into the upper valley.

The first section of the track is through scrubby vegetation, but as you penetrate deeper into the valley, native forest begins to predominate and the river takes on a more scenic aspect. The valley also begins to take on a sense of isolation and seclusion, aspects you don't find in the more popular tracks of Hanmer Forest, making this track something special among the diverse range of walks on offer here.

At the upper end of the track, the route climbs the south face of Jacks Pass via a steep rib where it again passes into open country with views of the craggy bluffs sprouting from the south side of Dumblane, 1303m.

Jacks Pass, 860m, is flanked by Mt Isobel, 1342m, and Mt Dumblane and through it runs the Clarence Valley Road. From the pass, the summit of Mt Isobel is relatively easily reached. The route winds up and over several small knobs, where there are more grand views, to reach the Mt Isobel Track junction. From here, there is a spectacular walk east along the crest climbing slowly to the summit.

Elevation Profile

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1012 ·

· 1097

1155 ☐·

84

85

172°50

86

1099 ☐

1300

87

985 ☐

985 ·

Jacks Pass

Chatterton River Tck

· 1263

· 1057 ☐

Mt Isobel
B262 ▲
1319m

Dumblane
▲ B25R
1303m

River Chatterton

ROAD

732

1195

Track

97

41m Dog Stream
Waterfall

96

VALLEY

Mt Isobel

Waterfall (Dog Stream) Track

Spur Track

713 ·

900

Chatterton

CLARENCE

714

698

42°
30

MULLANS

MT ISOBEL RD

ROWAN R

94

DUMBLANE RD

CHATTERTON RD

PAWSONS

JOLLIFFE

Jolliffe Saddle Track

551

QUARRY RD

473 ·

495

ROAD

Dog Stream

McINTYRE RD

MANU

ROAD

Motor
camp

Conical Hill
550
Fire lookout

Woodland Walk

93

530 ·

JACKS PASS RD

A8BT
▲
461m

Camp

JOLLIES PASS RD

392

HERDMAN

OLD COACH

Camp Fowl

PHILLI

Sch