



Hump Ridge Great Walk Project - Community Update October 2023

Kia ora koutou! Welcome to the third annual community information session for the Hump Ridge Great Walk Project. It is neat to see and meet everyone again, to share and discuss project progress, key milestones, and answer your questions. This update newsletter looks back 12 months, and ahead.

Notable Milestones

*Announcement about Project Extension.

In September 2023 we shared the news that, whilst the project bringing the track up to Great Walk standard is over the halfway line, there was still a lot to do.

All project partners have agreed that more time was needed for construction hence the project end date being pushed out another 12 months to October 2024.

All our contractors have worked very hard to keep the works progressing despite encountering challenges like supply chain delays, weather conditions and arduous terrain.

Great progress has made been to date with sections of track completely upgraded, other track areas still being worked on and the winter redevelopment of the Rarakau carpark is close to completion.

Improving the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track means this place steeped in cultural and historical significance becomes more of a drawcard for a larger pool of kiwi and international visitors. Everyone walking the track this summer season will notice obvious signs of improvement, even if this is their first time on the track.

The full media release can be viewed on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz – search on “Hump Ridge Track”.



Track Section J (upper left). Track Section A (main).
Track Section C (lower left).

*Progress of the track upgrade work

The 61 km track has been divided into sections so the construction contractors can do the upgrade work on different sections at the same time and focus on the sections most in need of repair/upgrade. The back page of this newsletter has the track upgrade map.

Since last October, some key milestones for the track and carpark upgrades have been;

- completion of the work on Track Sections D and O (*see photos left*) in late 2022.
- work starting in early 2023 on Track Section A and completed by May.
- work starting in early 2023 on Track Section C.
- work starting in May 2023 on Track Section B.
- work starting in July 2023 on Track Section J and around/on the Rarakau carpark.



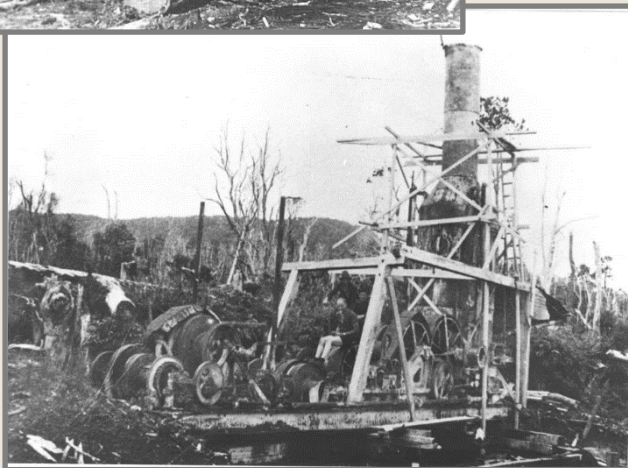
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



New Zealand Government

***Other Project Achievements:**

- The completion of the Rarakau car park upgrade & redevelopment works July-October 2023.
- Development and finalisation of detailed work for the storytelling and interpretation packages (See photos below)
- The delivery of a draft Conservation Management Report for the Port Craig Schoolhouse and Settlement Area to DOC Heritage team (See May 2023 newsletter)



The Lidgerwood Log Hauler in action at Port Craig (above) between 1926-31... and the remains today (below)



Hump Ridge Great Walk Project

A collaboration between Tuatapere Hump Track Charitable Trust, Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima and Department of Conservation. Southland, New Zealand

Redevelopment of Rarakau carpark

In mid-July, the contractors began their construction work at Rarakau carpark.

The original carpark and adjacent paddock have been redesigned and expanded to allow more parking spaces, and spaces for different types of vehicles. (i.e., from cars, trucks, minivans to campers and motor homes)

Among the improvements are the installation of a twin cubicle Norski toilet, a new shelter and fencing. The team also replanted much of the vegetation, excavated during the site clearance, around the carpark perimeter.

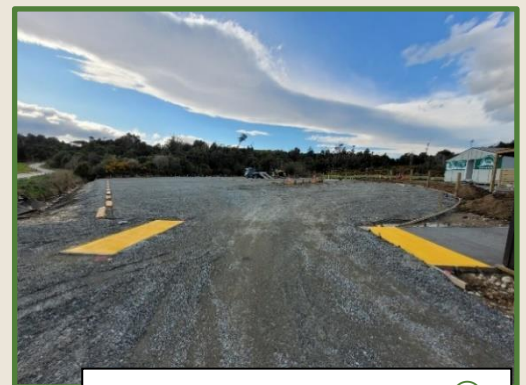
The parking area was closed to users, and alternative parking sign-posted, along the roadside. The helipad, that was adjacent to the original carpark, has been permanently moved across the road.

The contractor used heavy earthmoving equipment at site for the excavation work over a few weeks. There was also increased traffic volume on Papatotara Road. The road culvert outside the carpark entrance was replaced which may have impacted on users with delays or road closures.

Thank you everyone for the patience and understanding during this busy, disruptive time - especially local road users, landowners and Rowallan Alton farming and Rarakau Lodge teams. It will be worth it!



*Above: How it started ...
Below: How it was going ...*



How it is going ... early October 😊

Annual Community Information Session: 11 October 2023
 Programme Engagement Coordinator: Helen Matthews
humpridgeGWP@doc.govt.nz
www.doc.govt.nz



The project team, at Port Craig Schoolhouse, scoping the site placing of the interpretation signs and structures.

What we're still working on

- Ongoing work on portions of the storytelling and interpretation packages.
- Production and installation planning for the storytelling and interpretation infrastructure at place
- Work on negotiating legal easements with landowners to secure public access.
- Continued development of the Waharoa (gateway) for the track entrance.
- Monitoring heritage and cultural values/impacts for the track and environs
- Planning for 2024 events and ceremonies
- Sharing of news via our project's "It's Happening" newsletter, media releases, webpage, DOC Fiordland Facebook, community news sheets (Western Wanderer, Te Anau Trader.)
- Responding to queries from the public and media

A panoramic view of the project team, above Okaka Hut, planning the placement of new signage. Look at that skyline!



Hump Ridge Great Walk Project

A collaboration between Tuatapere Hump Track Charitable Trust, Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima and Department of Conservation, Southland, New Zealand

The track upgrade work continues ...

The construction work to upgrade the Track Sections B, C, E, F and G is scheduled to continue from now, through summer 2023 and into autumn/winter 2024.

The contractors are responsible for managing the worksite, including visitor safety through the sections of track under repair.

Track users & visitors are asked to obey all signage and instructions and expect minor delays from time to time.

Information is available from the Hump Ridge Track Operations Office and the DOC website.

Want to know more?

For information or to book/walk the **Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track** -contact the Track Operations Office directly via www.humpridgetrack.co.nz

Project Webpage: Stay informed - get the news via www.doc.govt.nz/hump-ridge-great-walk-project

Project Email: Contact us to ask questions or to be added to the mailing list HumpRidgeGWP@doc.govt.nz

Media enquiries: please direct to media@doc.govt.nz

He rau ringa, e oti ai

With many hands, the job will be finished



A local inspecting the boardwalk construction.

Annual Community Information Session: 11 October 2023

Programme Engagement Coordinator: Helen Matthews

humpridgeGWP@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz

Hump Ridge Track Upgrade work mapped out. This map is also on the project's webpage.



Hump Ridge Track Upgrade



NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator
Not for publication or navigation | 1:60,000
Crown Copyright Reserved | LINZ CC-BY © Crown
DGC, Geospatial Services | 30/11/2022

New Zealand Government

Hump Ridge Great Walk Project
A collaboration between Tuatapere Hump Track Charitable Trust,
Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima and Department of Conservation.
Southland, New Zealand

Annual Community Information Session: 11 October 2023
Programme Engagement Coordinator: Helen Matthews
humpridgeGWP@doc.govt.nz
www.doc.govt.nz