



Port Craig Wharf

It's Happening: Updates from the Hump Ridge Great Walk Project

Keeping you up-to-date with the news and latest information from the team developing the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track to Great Walk status.

Kia ora!

Welcome to the second Hump Track Great Walk Project newsletter. There was a concerted effort with the background detail and set-up of the project last year. This will continue during 2022 but it has set us up well to get some shovels and boots onto the ground, doing the physical mahi. We want to acknowledge everyone who has been involved in the project to date.

We, like you, continue to manage our way through the uncertainty, the knowns, and the unknowns that the COVID-19 global pandemic brings us now, and the next 6-24 months. Keeping in touch and sharing the project news and progress is important to the team. Through this newsletter, we will share the project's progress but also any constraints or delays we encounter.

It has been a while since our first newsletter was distributed at our Community Info Day in mid-October 2021. We were waiting to share the news of a significant project milestone - the start of the track upgrade work - and how this milestone was honoured on a glorious April autumnal day at Rarakau car park.



A significant day

On Sunday 3 April, a Whakatau Te Whenua to settle the land, bless the track, and clear the way for construction to begin, was held by mana whenua mana moana of the rohe, Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka.

As the youngest and oldest in attendance, Ollie Church (Ōraka Aparima, *left*) and Harold Thomas (Rowallan Alton Inc., *middle*) shared the honour of turning the whenua on Rowallan Alton land, where the Hump Ridge Track begins.



Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka Hākui Muriel Johnstone (*right*) says “The Whakatau Te Whenua acknowledged the many tūpuna (ancestors) who traversed these lands and waterways over the centuries, lived on the whenua, and gathered treasured mahika kai from the mountains to the sea - ki uta ki tai. In gathering here, we are reminded of one very ancient aranui (track) in this rohe (tribal area), which travelled up and over the vast, long ridge known as Okaka, and onwards to the many lakes and mountains throughout Fiordland”.

A joint media release shared the news about this event signalling the first spade hitting the ground for the project. Ka pai tō mahi. You can read more here. [Media release 4 April 2022 \(www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2022-media-releases/hump-ridge-track-great-walk-upgrade-begins/\)](https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2022-media-releases/hump-ridge-track-great-walk-upgrade-begins/)



Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka

New Zealand Government

Project Progress, Tasks and Timeframes

We know there is keen interest in how the project is tracking. A busy end to last year has led into a busy first few months of 2022. Key achievements are listed below.

December 2021

The Request for Tenders (RFT) for the track upgrade work (excluding Section D) was released on the Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS) prior to Christmas. This is the process DOC uses to inform and invite registered contractors to tender for work.

January 2022

The Track Work RFT process continued – with interested contractors attending a pre-tender meeting and two days of site visits on the track. These sessions were designed to give contractors a good understanding of what the projects outcomes are, and the level of work required to complete the upgrade works.

February

Track Section D upgrade work planning & scheduling.

March

Submission of Track Work tenders closed.
Evaluations of tender applications started.

April

Whakataua Te Whenua held 3 April at Rarakau.
Track Section D upgrade work starts.

Track Section D upgrade work

Section D is the piece of track from the Edwin Burn Viaduct for 1.5km towards Okaka (see Fig 1.) which trampers encounter during Day 2. This section of track had been previously identified to be in very poor condition. The decision was made to prioritise the track upgrade work this walking season to stop any further degradation. We have been working with a contractor to have this work completed as soon as possible but there have been a few delays. The plan is to start the track upgrade work at site in April and finish in May/June - weather, personnel, and resources permitting.

The benefits with doing the upgrade now are

- That it will get it completed prior to winter so the track will be able to settle and therefore improve the experience and ease the underfoot conditions for next season's trampers.
- That it will also give us the opportunity to trial some new construction techniques for this type of track.

The contractors will be 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 will be also shared by the Hump Ridge Track Operations Office and on the DOC website.

Fig 1. shows the track broken into sections for the upgrade work, with Section D circled.



Fig 1. Hump Ridge Track Upgrade work mapped out

Want to know more?

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

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

Project Email: Get in touch to ask questions or to be added to the newsletter distribution list via email: 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

Hump Ridge Great Walk Project

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

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