



Hump Track Project “Happenings”

This newsletter brings you the latest project updates, stories, events and actions from the team developing the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track into a Great Walk.

Latest News - the first newsletter!

Welcome to the first edition of the Hump Track Great Walk Project newsletter. It is all “happening” right here.

The project team are keen to keep you informed about the progress of this project over the next couple of years. This newsletter will be the mainstay of the planned communications, so get in touch if you would like to receive this newsletter into your inbox.

Project History – key facts

As part of Budget 2017, the “Tourism Growth Initiative – New Walks” was included as some of the Cabinet-approved initiatives. As a result, DOC was awarded capital and operating expenditure for two new Great Walks to be established.

In July 2019, the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track was announced, after a rigorous selection process, as a successful applicant, by the then Minister of Conservation, as the next (and 11th) Great Walk.

The Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track has been operation for nearly 20 years as a two-night walk and is managed by a non-for-profit business, on behalf of the Tuatapere Hump Track Charitable Trust.

The main objective of this project is to deliver a new Great Walk at the Hump Ridge location by upgrading the track surface, structures, carpark, interpretation, and storytelling package.

The Hump Ridge Great Walk Project will be managed by a DOC Project team, with oversight by a Governance Group that includes mana whenua namely, Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima, as well as the representatives from the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track Charitable Trust & the Hump Ridge Track Inc.,

the not-for-profit business managing the track operations.

This project offers opportunities for DOC to build on partnerships - with mana whenua/local iwi, the Charitable Trust, the local community, the landowners, and other key stakeholders – to explore ways to provide an enhanced Great Walk visitor experience.

The Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track is an enduring legacy for the western southland community that was heavily affected by the loss of the NZ Forestry Services/banning of native logging in mid-1980’s.

The core benefit from this project for the community will be the added economic benefit that it will bring to the region - through additional employment, business opportunities and the increased tourism/visitor spend as people want to walk a Great Walk.

At the conclusion of the project, i.e., when the Great Walk is up and running, the Charitable Trust will be responsible for the management and operation of the upgraded track and facilities.

Important Events

- **Monday 18 October 2021** – Tuatapere Community Information event – a drop-in session 12-3pm and a presentation session 5-7pm – both sessions are being held at Waiau Town & Country Club. Everyone is invited.
- **Saturday 23 October 2021** – The summer walking season starts for the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track. Book here www.humpridgetrack.co.nz
- **Tuesday 26 October 2021** – DOC Great Walk season starts. Book here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/walking-and-tramping/great-walks/>



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka

New Zealand Government

Area & Track History – SILNA

The development of the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track as a Great Walk includes interpretation and storytelling.

This large panel (pictured below) is on the South Coast Track between Sand Hill Point *Hakapūreirei* and Port Craig. It records the SILNA “A story of loss”.



“SILNA is an acronym for South Island Landless Natives Act. Its impact on Waitutu Forest bring into focus painful memories of colonial injustice”.

“Before the arrival of sealers and whalers, the south coast was populated by Māori who travelled seasonally to gather “mahinga kai” the food and resources they needed to sustain themselves. The concept of land ownership, as we know it today, was foreign. Instead, they saw themselves as kaitiaki or caretakers”.

“As the number of Europeans settling in NZ increased, so did pressure on the land. From 1848, the Crown purchased large blocks of land from Ngai Tahu, which were subdivided for European settlement.

By the turn of the century so many South Island Māori were dispossessed and poverty stricken that a Royal Commission force the colonial government to act. In 1906 it passed the South Island Landless Natives Act to provide economic redress for some 4000 landless Māori from all over South Island. Approx. 57 000 hectares of SILNA land was transferred, much of it in Waitutu Forest. This coastal strip from Sandhill Point / Hakapūreirei to Waitutu Forest was inaccessible, uninhabitable, and seemingly useless. Not surprisingly, a 1991 Waitangi tribunal report concluded that the act was ‘perpetuating a cruel hoax.’”

“... A deal was made with Port Craig company ... for access to the extensive area of SILNA forest for logging purposes. The company would pay timber royalties to the District Māori Land Board, which held the money in trust for the rightful owners, but the mill went bankrupt before all the fees were paid.”

The next part of this story will be shared in the next newsletter.

We are on the Web!

Our brand-new webpage shares the history of the area and the track, the project background, the who’s who of project team, a few photos, and the work we plan to achieve. Do check it out!

www.doc.govt.nz/hump-ridge-great-walk-project

Project Tasks and Timeframes

We know there is keen interest in how the project is tracking. The table below shows the key information for the project deliverables. We will keep you updated of progress via these newsletters.

Key Milestones	Indicative Target Date	Delivery / Progress
High Level Concept Plan Endorsed	June 2021	Completed
Indicative Business Case	May 2020	Completed
Experience Design Plan	August 2021	Ongoing
Design works	December 2021	Ongoing
Visitor Experience (Signs & Interpretation)	December 2021	Ongoing
Procurement Plan Endorsed	June 2021	Completed
Procurement Process – Track Works	October 2021	Ongoing
Detailed Business Case	December 2021	Ongoing
Construction Phase	Dec 2021 – Oct 2023	Ongoing
Project Closure	Dec 2023	Not yet started

Want to know more?

For track information or to book to walk the **Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track** – please contact the Track Office directly via www.humpridgetrack.co.nz
Project Webpage: Get all the facts and stay informed via www.doc.govt.nz/hump-ridge-great-walk-project

Project Email: Contact the project team at any time to ask questions or to be added to the distribution list to receive these newsletters

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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