

ABSEIL ACCESS LTD

Reference Project

Suspension Bridge Construction

Location: Otaki River, Tararua Forest Park

Date: May 2010

Client: Department of Conservation,
Waikanae

Engineer: Alan Dallas

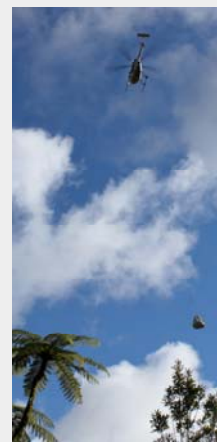
The Otaki River runs down the western side of the Tararua Range to Otaki Forks. This new bridge replaces an old Forest Service swing bridge across a spectacular gorge. It is the start of several tracks into the range and also a popular tourist viewpoint.

Abseil Access Ltd won the tender to manufacture and install the swing bridge, which spans 62 metres across the Otaki River

The project involved digging and concreting tower foundations. Anchor rods at both sides were drilled using a compressed air hand drill and were up to 3m deep. A helicopter was required for transportation of the compressor, timber and steel components.

The 18mm galvanised cables support 30 steel hangers. The new bridge was built under the old bridge simultaneously with the removal of the old bridge.

On the last day of the project the bridge was successfully load tested by the DoC engineer. The project was completed within the designated construction period despite continuously wintry conditions.



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