

REFERENCE PROJECT

Suspension Bridge Construction

Location: MacPherson Creek on the Wilderness Trail
Date: September 2013
Client: Westland District Council
Engineer: Jon Calder, Department of Conservation

The Wilderness trail is a 120km 4 day cycle ride through rain forest and historic gold mining towns on the South Island Westcoast. The MacPherson bridge crosses a spectacular gorge surrounded by tall rimu and kahikatea. Extra care was taken to preserve the beauty of the location during construction.

Abseil Access won the tender to construct the 80m long suspension bridge across MacPherson creek. The 1.5m wide deck and 10 person load limit make it suitable for large cycle parties as well as small maintenance vehicles. The tower footings and the ground anchors required 16m³ of concrete which was poured using a helicopter.

The construction team worked through all weathers to complete the project within the 28 day period.

On completion the bridge was successfully load tested to 5000kg

