

Reference Project

Bridge Construction

60m Swing Bridge Built in the Alpine Zone of Mt Ruapehu

Location Waihianoa Stream, Mt Ruapehu

Date December 2019

Client Department of Conservation

Abseil Access won the tender for the rebuild of the 55m swing bridge across the Waihianoa stream on the south east corner of the busy Round the Mountain track on Mt Ruapehu. The Existing bridge had reached the end of its life and was removed during the construction process.

The work included:

- Establishing a camp at 1500m in the alpine zone on the slopes of an active volcano for 3 weeks.
- Helicopter transportation of all materials and the camp.
- Removal of the existing bridge including the historic concrete foundation blocks.
- Axial pull testing of all new bridge cable anchors to 200kN.
- Full construction in 316 stainless steel and T6 aluminium alloy.

Our bridge building team met the challenge of the high camp by construction of flyable huts, mountain tents and portable bathroom facilities. The track remained open with the public being carefully directed through the site and over a temporary bridge.

The build was completed in 3 weeks and passed the load test.

