

Reference Project

Bridge Construction

Design & Build: 45m Unlimited Load Suspension Bridge with Artistic Input

Location Katikati Township, Bay of Plenty

Date March 2017

Client Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Katikati is a small fast-growing township in the Western Bay of Plenty that is home to poets, writers and artists. Recent improvements of the local Uretara stream involved a riverside track with a bridge crossing. The bridge crossing is in the same location as the disused historic rail line.

Abseil Access submitted a bridge design that met the client's specification and budget as well as incorporating artistic input.

The 45m suspension span has a 1.8m wide deck and meets the 4kPa unlimited pedestrian loading. 40m³ of concrete were poured to ensure a solid foundation in the swampy ground.

Artistic features

- Tower poles: historic jarrah hardwood poles were recovered from the Wellington trolley bus overhead lines.
- Tower bracing: disused rail irons were purchased from Kiwirail and used for the tower bracing. Which, along with the hardwood poles give a representative feel for the historic rail line.
- Heartwood from recovered swamp totara for the handrails.
- Heartwood swamp totara inserts on the handrail balustrades which were CNC carved following our own submitted designs reflecting the local native flora and fauna.

The project had full support from the local iwi and artistic community who regularly visited the construction site and attended the grand opening.

