

Walkway adds value to historic Nelson farm



Barbara and Ian Stuart own Cable Bay Station near Nelson. They've worked with Herenga ā Nuku to create a legal walkway to share the spectacular scenery and beach access on their land with locals and tourists

"My father-in-law Fred enjoyed sharing the walkway, and he enjoyed meeting people who were doing it," says Barbara.

When Barbara and Ian took on the farm they continued those values, which she describes as "very much the old Kiwi way".

"We thought, with the popularity of the walkway, there was an opportunity on our historical site by the sea. We now have a small campground and café that we have been able to leverage off the historic site and the walkway."

The Stuarts have a long and warm relationship with the Department of Conservation (DOC), regularly spraying the track for weeds and keep it tidy. The track closes each year for ten weeks to protect newborn calves and their mothers.

The Stuarts and DOC collaborate on safety too, such as during times of high fire risk, when they closed the track to keep people and the track safe.



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Adding a public access easement on your land



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Allowing a legal walkway on your land can be straightforward. It lets people walk or ride safely across your farm, forest or land under conditions you choose.



Reasons for having a public access easement

- Wanting to share your corner of New Zealand
- Giving back to your local community
- Giving people healthy spaces for physical exercise and mental well-being.
- Enabling public access on a track across several properties
- Having a legal framework to manage safety

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission, offers a simple walkway easement that enables you to allow people to pass over your land, but only according to the terms you want. For instance, it will prohibit people from:

- endangering or disturbing you
- damaging your property
- interfering with your livestock

You can use your walkway easement to prohibit fires, firearms, camping, dogs, or vehicles.



What is a legal walkway?

A legal walkway is a publicly accessible track established under the Walking Access Act 2008. Where a legal walkway is on private land, the landholder retains the right to access and use the land. People who misuse or abuse the walkway can be fined up to \$10,000. Each walkway has a public body appointed that manages and maintains it.

Herenga ā Nuku has regional field advisors who can discuss what the best type of public access, if any, might be for your land. We work closely with local authorities, giving them expert advice about creating and maintaining public access. And we have close working relationships with landholders, outdoor recreation groups, tracks and trails trusts and government agencies.



Did you know landholders are not legally liable for the health and safety of walkers who use their land, so long as they warn visitors of workplace risks that they wouldn't normally expect to encounter?

Herenga ā Nuku can talk with you about any concerns you may have.



Herenga ā Nuku can help you with your walkway

- We can link you with people who can help build and maintain a walkway.
- We can put you in touch with the right people at your local council.
- We can gazette your walkway or public access to make sure it's legal.
- We can make sure the lawyers are involved when needed, and not when not needed.
- We can give advice on health and safety for public access, cycleways and walkways.
- We may provide financial grants to support with the cost of surveying, and development.
- We can make sure any public access has conditions that allow you to continue working your land safely and economically (such as track closures during lambing season, or restrictions to protect safety or animal welfare).
- We can provide advice and funding to help with signs and markers.
- We monitor controlling authorities' enforcement of conditions on legal walkways.

