

Report: Opening up of the Lyvia River track by Permolat Southland.

This track starts on the Wilmot road on the hairpin bend above the Lyvia River bridge. I have talked to a number of adults who, as children, had stayed in the Deep Cove Hostel and walked up the Lyvia River Track to the river bed above the gorge where there are views of Mount Troup and the Black Giants.



This track had fallen into disuse over the intervening years and was completely overgrown when we came to work on it. Members of the Deep Cove Outdoor Education Trust approached Permolat Southland with a view to open up the Lyvia River track again.

Permission was obtained from DoC at Te Anau to do this on the proviso that it was not to be an official DoC track but marked by permolat track markers.



Permolat Southland work parties have gone into the area on 4 occasions to work on this track. The most difficult job was to find the original track as it was well overgrown and the original markers were spaced well apart and marked with small red permolat squares. The first 1,200 meters was also marked later by pink track tape tied onto saplings.



The first work party at Easter 2019 cut and marked the track to a length of about 600 meters.

The second work party in December 2019 cut and marked the track for a further length of about another 600 meters. At that point the track markers all but disappeared.



The third work party in February 2020 went in and found the track from the end of the cut part all the way to the Lyvia River and the end of the track.

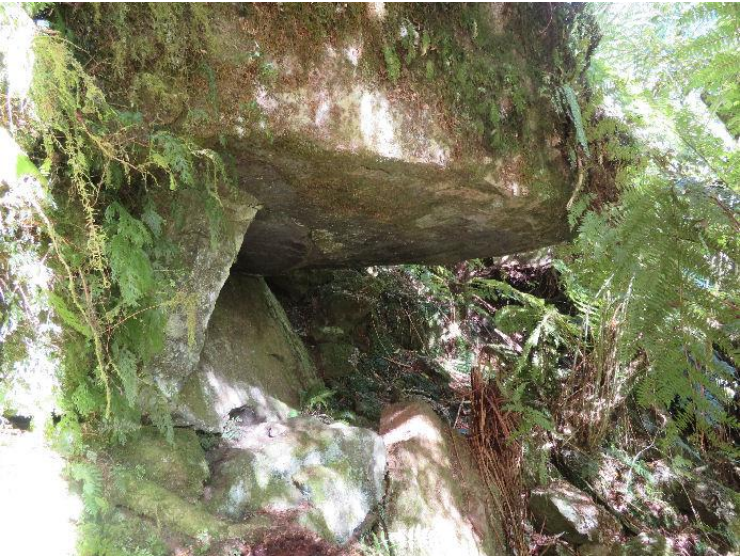
The fourth work party in March 2020 went in and cut and marked the remaining 700 meters to the Lyvia River flats above the gorge. There a view of Mount Troup is seen in one direction and a view of the three Black Giants seen in another direction. Here the Lyvia river is wide and flat and easily crossable. On this trip the whole track was marked with blue triangles at 50 meters intervals with a view to obtaining permission and funding to run a trap line along this track.

Our thanks to DoC who made this project possible, The Deep Cove Outdoor Education Trust for their help with travel and accommodation and all the workers who worked on the track and helped, especially, Sally, Annabel, John, Alastair and Fleur.

The track is 1.9 Km long on the ground, takes about one hour to an hour and a half to walk one way depending on fitness. There is a rise and fall of about 140 vertical meters and there are 35 marked trap sites. The track took 171 man

hours to finish.

In the Lyvia River flats we found a healthy population of the Mountain Cabbage tree (Cordyline indivisa).





The Three Black Giants.



Mount Troup and the track end on the Lyvia River.

