



TRAIL BLAZER

The newsletter of the Friends of the Greytown Trails Trust

July 2011



Spring opening likely for Trail

A Spring opening, coinciding with Wairarapa's Spring Festival (10 September - 9 October), now looks achievable. Dovetailing the opening with the Festival will allow us to get maximum awareness of our project in the local community and beyond. There are plans for a fun, family-orientated event to celebrate the new Trail, so watch this space and the local papers!

Volunteers dig deep for Arbor Day

Thanks to a successful Arbor Day planting on 3 July, the previously bare earth bunds running along the sides of the Trail near the Cotter St entrance are now covered in plants. A donation of \$250 from the Greytown Community Board enabled us to buy 120 native plants, which were dug in in double quick time by volunteers, helped greatly by the efforts of eight Lincoln students, (see story below). Alan Wasmuth (above), of The Real Christmas Tree Company, Featherston, was one of the volunteers. Though he has a taste for cycling in exotic places like Laos and Nepal, he says he will be a keen user of the Trail: "It's a great cause." Alan is also part of the newly formed landscaping committee, with fellow members Anne Atkinson, Russell Calvert and Lois Pitt.



It was one of those pristine winter mornings — sun, blue skies, and views of the snowy Tararua — when about 40 people turned out for the Arbor Day planting. Some also lent a hand to the Lions' Trail planting at the north end of town later the same day. The common factor at both digs? Those huge river stones we know so well from our own gardens, and an even bigger community spirit to make something positive happen in our beautiful 'backyard' landscape. Thanks to all who came.

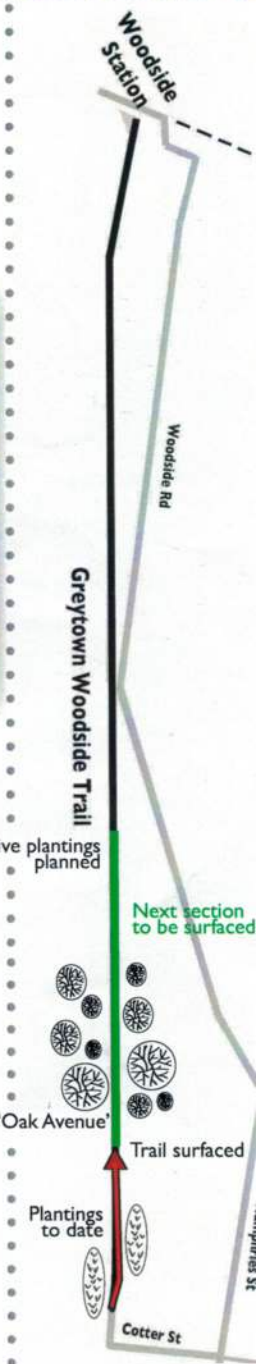
It looks like we may have a Spring opening for the Trail, and a grant of \$10,000 from Trust House Ltd, Masterton, has bought this goal even closer — we gratefully acknowledge this contribution. We still need your support though, either by joining the Friends (for a suggested donation of \$10) or helping at future working bees. Do get in touch if you'd like to get involved....and happy Trail Blazing!

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Lincoln students' hard graft

Eight students on the Lincoln Lend a Hand project did an impressive amount of work on the Trail over several days. They included four young men from Hawkes Bay who spent a day stone picking, and planting flaxes and 80 poplar poles. Pictured are Laura-Beth Feany (North Canterbury), Britt Paton (Martinborough) and Kelsey Dewis. Many thanks, and also to Georgina, Cameron, Ben, James and Sam.



All comers test drive Trail



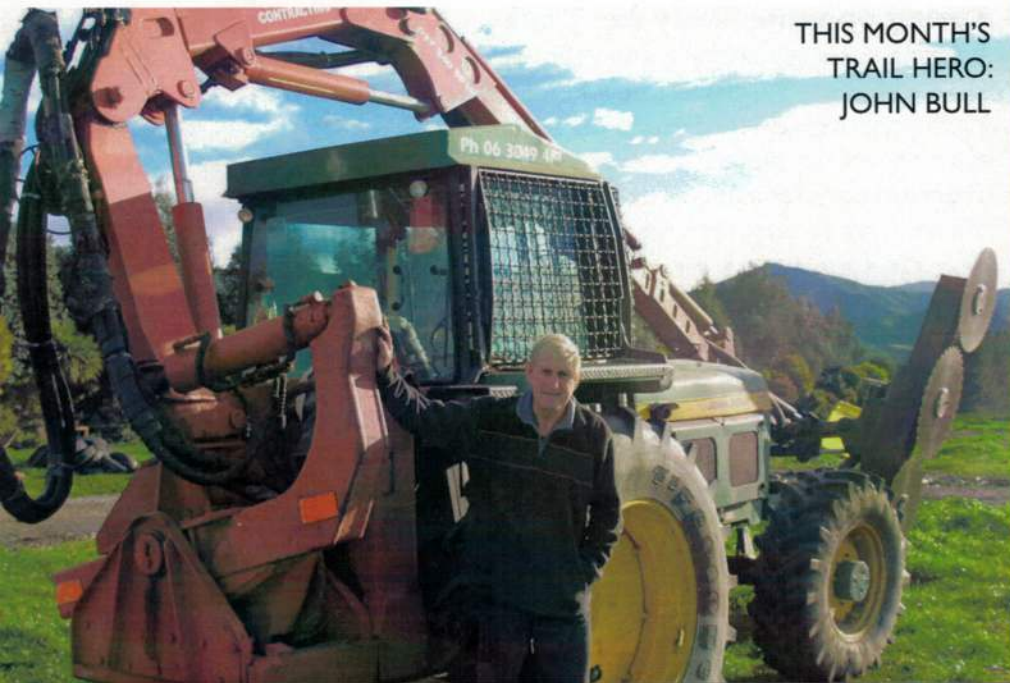
After the Arbor Day planting, Anne Atkinson, of the Greytown Cycling Seniles, test-rode the unsurfaced Trail beyond the Transfer Station, accompanied by her dogs Gemma

and Poppy (above). It was a bumpy ride, but easy to imagine how picturesque this section of the Trail will be: mountain and pasture views, beautiful overhanging oak avenues. This section will likely be planted in totara, manuka and kanuka, which once thrived here.



Local contractor Lachie Nixon rammed several hundred fence posts along the Trail this month. Thankyou!

THIS MONTH'S TRAIL HERO: JOHN BULL



This month's featured supporter is John Bull, of John Bull Contracting, and Puzzlewood fame. John voluntarily undertook approximately \$1200 worth of trimming work on trees neighbouring the Trail, and he didn't muck around, said trustee Bob Tosswill: "As soon as we asked, John came out and did it. This is typical of the reaction and support we are getting, but we would like to specially thank John for this generous contribution and his willingness to help." John has lived all his life in Greytown and, though he didn't ride on it, he remembers seeing the locomotive steaming up and down the Greytown-Woodside line, as a boy. We hope that walking or cycling will be the next best thing to riding the loco for you, John!

DID YOU KNOW....?

The former Greytown-Woodside railway branch line (which the Trail will follow) was unique in several ways. It was one of the few areas in the country where the locomotive was operated by a single crew member. And it trialed two 11-seater Model T Ford petrol driven railcars, built at Petone Railway Workshops in 1926. These were specially built to "convey passengers and parcels" but soon proved unsuccessful and were transferred to the Mid-Canterbury branch lines.

VOLUNTEERING NOTES & THANK YOU'S

Almost \$3500 has been donated by individuals to the Trail to date, and many people have kindly donated plants. We are still gratefully receiving flaxes and grasses so please contact Jenny if you can help in this way (details below). In early August, a team of students from Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre will be wiring the new fences - a great help for us as labour costs for this work can be significant. Sincere thanks to all.

HOW TO DONATE

Remember that **\$50** buys 10 fenceposts & **\$100** buys one of the 65 rolls of wire we need. To make a donation, contact Treasurer Jenny Tosswill: jennytosswill@hotmail.com. Cheques made out to Greytown Trails Trust can be sent to R & J Tosswill, Woodside Rd, Greytown.

Thank you for your superb support: Bill Hammond Transport; Bruce Buchanan Ltd; Farmlands; Goldpine; Greytown Community Board; Greytown Primary School; Greytown Sport & Leisure Society Inc.; Greytown Trust Lands Trust; Holcim NZ Ltd; John Bull Contracting; Kuranui College; Lamb Peters Print; Pope & Gray Ltd; Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre; Trust House Ltd, Masterton.



The Greytown Trails Trust was established in 2010 to promote cycle and walkways in Greytown, and develop the five kilometre council-owned 'rail corridor' which runs from the end of Cotter Street (near the Transfer Station), to Woodside Station.

