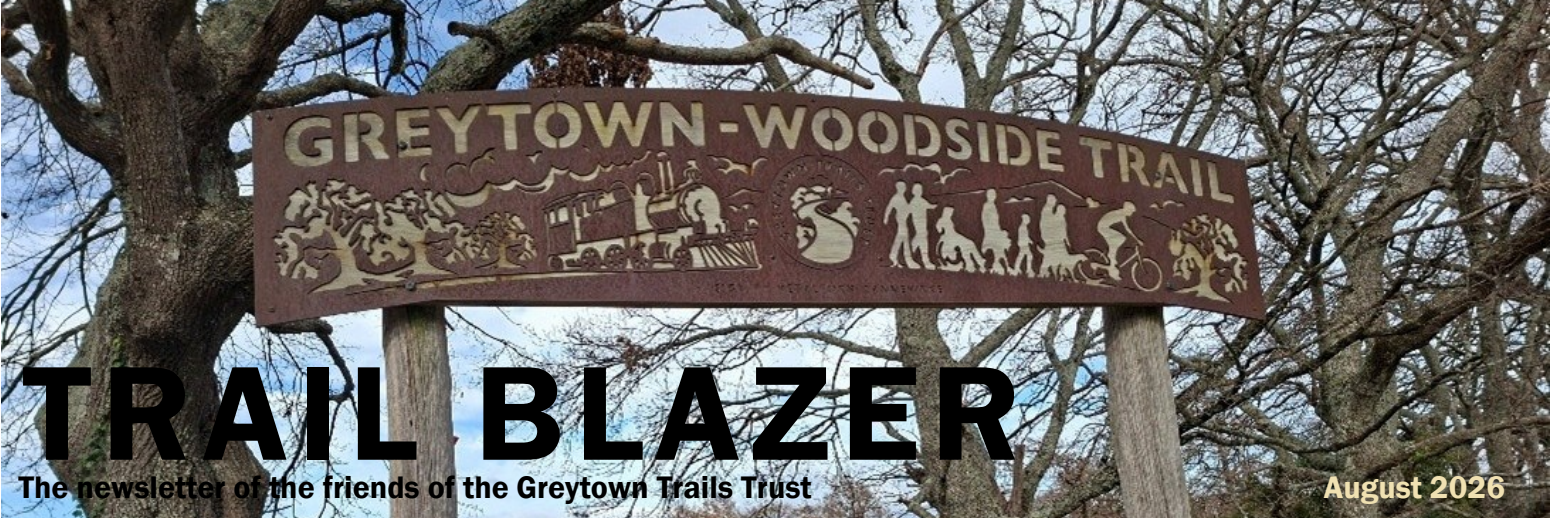


TRAIL BLAZER

The newsletter of the friends of the Greytown Trails Trust

August 2026

TRAILS, COMMUNITY & FRESH FACES

A large crowd of 58 Friends and community members gathered at the Greytown Town Hall on May 12th for the 16th Greytown Trails Trust AGM. It was an evening of reflecting on how far the trails have come since 2009, looking ahead to future maintenance, and introducing the team that will lead us into the next three years.

Welcoming Our New Board of Trustees.

This year was time for the triennial election of our Trustees. Under the Trust deed, we operate with a board of three to seven members. This year, we are happy to have seven trustees and they have been officially confirmed to guide the Trust for the 2026–2029 term.



John Gray, Bob Tosswill, Fraser Bell, Shane Atkinson, Phil Cox, Gary Hall & Roland Daysh

We are pleased to welcome a dynamic mix of returning hands and new energy to the table. Your Greytown Trails Trust Trustees are: John Gray (chair), Bob Tosswill, Phil Cox , Gary Hall , Shane Atkinson and new faces Fraser Bell, Roland Daysh. We extend a huge thank you to these community-minded individuals for stepping up to manage and protect the trails we all love!

Honouring retiring trustees.

With new leadership comes a time to say a heartfelt thank you to those who have paved the way. Tributes were paid to John Bushnell, who has dedicated the last six years to effortlessly guiding the Trust as our Chair. John's immense contribution and hard work have left an incredible legacy on our tracks, and we owe him a massive debt of gratitude.

Another retiring trustee is Ted Ward who has done so much over the years especially leading the management of the Greytown Country Market, always being available to do work on the trail, and so much more. Whilst Ted is no longer a trustee we know we will still see his smiling face helping out.

The Realities of Funding Our Trails.

Did you know that roughly 50,000 people use our trails every single year? It's a staggering number that proves just how vital these pathways are to our health and community spirit. Keeping them in top shape however is getting increasingly expensive. The trail is run by a Trust which is funded solely by community donations. It does not receive funding from the South Wairarapa District Council nor central government. Recently our physical donation boxes needed to be removed after repeatedly being damaged and targeted by thieves so if you use the trail then please consider donating to it's up-keep. You can make donations by clicking the donate button on our website - greytowntrails.org.nz.

We Need Your Ideas!

We are actively looking for fresh ways to fundraise and challenge trail users to chip in. Keep an eye out for new QR codes along the trails for easy digital donating! If you or any creative young people you know have ideas on trail maintenance funding, please contact us.

Welcome to this edition of the Trail Blazer. We hope you find something of interest here. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact us - trailblazerGTT@gmail.com

John & Kathleen

The parkrunners use the trail every week, here is a report from Phil Cox, who is not only a parkrunner, but also a trustee of the Trails Trust.

Saturday mornings are busier than ever on the Trail!

Running Royalty. In January, we were privileged to welcome running pioneer Kathrine Switzer. In 1967, she famously became the first woman to officially run the Boston Marathon, paving the way for female athletes globally. Her visit was a beautiful reminder of inclusivity at parkrun, where women of all ages—from speedy runners to mums with prams and volunteers—truly belong.

Blue for Lew. March brought a massive milestone as volunteer co-ordinator Lew Campbell completed his 500th parkrun—a testament to 14 years of dedication. We celebrated with a vibrant "Blue for Lew" theme, featuring blue skies, tutus, balloons, and a special cake. Lew's family and a large, blue-shirted contingent from Porirua joined the festivities to honor his incredible achievement.



Record Attendance. Easter Saturday saw a record-breaking 135 participants, including 28 first-timers and visitors from Canada, Australia, and across New Zealand. They discovered exactly why we are called the "friendliest little parkrun in New Zealand", before heading into town to enjoy coffee at The Offering.

Join Us! Want to take part in our free, timed 5km walk or run? Come to the Woodside Station end of the Greytown Rail Trail for an **8am start any Saturday**. Just remember to register online first so we can track your time and have emergency contact details.

www.parkrun.co.nz/greytownwoodsidetrail

STOP PRESS

We are thrilled to share that we've just been awarded a **$5,000 grant** from the Greytown Lands Trust. Also a further $2,000 from South Wairarapa Rotary. This funding will allow us to refresh and update our trail signage. Keep an eye out as we roll out these exciting improvements over the coming months!

GREYTOWN LANDS TRUST
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY SINCE 1871

South Wairarapa Rotary

GREYTOWN COUNTRY MARKET - STELLA BULL PARK

The first market for the next season is on Sunday 18 October from 10am - 2pm. Please come along and support our stallholders, who in turn support the Trails Trust. If you are interested in having a stall, then please register here: ***greytowncountrymarket.org.nz/book-stall***

TRAIL COUNT

252,794 visitors on the Greytown Trail to date and

102,486 on the Tauwharenikau Trail

GREYTOWN COUNTRY MARKET
3rd Sunday of every month – Oct thru March
greytowncountrymarket.org.nz

This market is run by volunteers from the Greytown Trails Trust and is a major fundraiser for the trail. The money we raise goes towards maintenance, upkeep and ongoing improvements to the trail.

The market also provides a gathering place for our community that celebrates the diversity and creativity of Wairarapa and Wellington.

For more information, whether as a visitor or potential stallholder, please contact the team at -

info@greytowncountrymarket.org.nz

BECOME A FRIEND

We have a steadily growing base of friends who get involved in working bees and are kept up to date with trail activities.

A minimum annual donation of $10 is all it costs to become a Friend.

Please contact Margaret Cole -

secretary@greytowntrails.org.nz

HOW TO DONATE

To make a donation please contact Kathleen - treasurer@greytowntrails.org.nz

parkrun is a free, fun and friendly community event where you can walk, run, jog, volunteer or spectate.

parkrun is 5km and takes place every Saturday at 8am starting at the trail near Woodside Station.

www.parkrun.co.nz/greytownwoodsidetrail