

TRAIL BLAZER

The newsletter of the friends of the Greytown Trails Trust

August 2023



Welcome to this edition of the Trail Blazer. We have dedicated this one to the unveiling of the pou but the next edition will see information on the new bridge over the Tauherenikau River. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us - trailblazerGTT@gmail.com

John & Kathleen

[Editors in training]

NEW BEGINNINGS

At the dawn of Matariki, Greytown Trails Trust (GTT) members, iwi, the member of parliament for Wairarapa, the mayor and members of the public gathered for a powhiri to bless the new pou and unveil it. The pou, in Clifford Square, Featherston, marks the beginning of the new section of trail across the new Tauherenikau River bridge to link with the Greytown rail trail.

GTT started working with Simone Baker from Papawai Marae and Narida Hooper from Pae tu Mokai o Tauira. They took the idea of a pou to mark the southern entrance of the Five Towns Trail and with iwi support, developed the plan to tell the purākau (legend) of Nuku-pewapewa who was a prominent leader in the late 18th century. Master carver Eddie Riwai (right), originally from Papawai, was commissioned to carve the pou.



At the unveiling the ownership of the pou was passed over to South Wairarapa District Council, to exercise kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and to hold for our whole community.

THE PURĀKAU (LEGEND) OF NUKU-PEWAPewa

Nuku, said to have been called Nuku-pewapewa because his moko was in the style called pewapewa, was probably born in the late eighteenth century in the Wairarapa.

Nuku-pewapewa was a prominent leader in the period of disturbance between 1820 and 1839. About 1820 a war expedition from the north reached Wairarapa. The war party possessed muskets, a new weapon to which the old name, pū, a traditional war trumpet, had been given. Nuku-pewapewa said "Let them come, let them blow their pū; my men can also blow pū." War trumpets were sounded as the enemy approached, but their pū were muskets and many of Nuku-pewapewa's people were shot.

Nuku-pewapewa finally led his people to peace when he flew a warrior over the ramparts of an enemy pa on a raupo kite to secure a victory that established him as "Peacemaker" for the Wairarapa.



TRAIL HERO

Lois Pitt is our Trail Hero in this edition as she spends many hours weeding, organising new plants, obtaining truckloads of bark, and convincing volunteers to create our newly formed gardens along the trail. As well as this she also spends many hours helping with the organisation of the Greytown Country Market, our major fundraiser for the Trail.



DID YOU KNOW?

We have installed counters on the trails and in the last year we have had over **89,000** visitors on the Greytown Trail and **26,560** on the new Tauherenikau Trail.

WHY WE LOVE THE TRAIL

Erin & Mila Lawton-McKenzie from Featherston

I couldn't even tell you how many times I have used the trail! Before I had my daughter I was a regular at parkrun, a wonderful community of people who run 5km every Saturday morning at 8am from the Woodside end. I often drop my daughter at Busy Bees on a Monday and run the 8.6km to the end and back again. But most recently my daughter has just started to ride her bike there which makes it even more special. I love telling people about the oak trees that line the first part of the trail, and how they were planted with the intention of eventually becoming replacement sleepers for the rail line. Lucky for them, the line was retired and they got to live a wonderful long life looking down on all those who use the trail today.



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
bmcole@orcon.net.nz

HOW TO DONATE

To make a donation please contact Kathleen - trailblazergtt@gmail.com



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