



# TRAIL BLAZER

The newsletter of the friends of the Greytown Trails Trust

January 2024



Welcome to this edition of the Trail Blazer. We hope you find something of interest here especially regarding the new bridge over the Tauwharenikau River.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact us - trailblazerGTT@gmail.com

John & Kathleen

## NEW CONNECTIONS

In this edition we are featuring the new cycling/footbridge across the Tauwharenikau River. Whilst many of you would think that it is a little strange as the bridge has been open for some time, October 2023 marked a significant milestone in the bridges' history when the South Wairarapa District Council took over ownership of the bridge from the team at the Greytown Trails Trust.

It is timely then to reflect on what can only be described as a mammoth and significant undertaking by a small number of members of the trust. The idea of bridging the Tauwharenikau River to allow for an extension to the existing Greytown rail trail network began nearly ten years ago when the Trails Trust first discussed the feasibility of building a bridge. Working with Abseil Access, the trust's chosen bridge builder, an initial site was investigated, upstream from the rail bridge, before the current site was chosen.

Momentum for the bridge became significant in December 2019 after the trust had raised enough money from donations to proceed with design and resource consents. In 2021 a grant for full funding of the bridge, trails signage, parking areas and planting from the MBIE Regional Economic Development Unit

enabled the construction contract to be let and the bridge to begin construction. The bridge was complete and in use by October 2022. The galloping movement of the bridge in gale-force winds proved to be greater than anyone had expected and further stabilization work has been needed since.

Whilst the bridge has still yet to be officially opened it has nonetheless become popular with both locals and those from within and outside the region as a cycling and walking destination. Although the actual social and economic benefits have yet to be fully realised, since opening the bridge we have seen over 36,300 visitors passing across its span which already proves its worth.

Not wanting to rest on their laurels members of the trust are now planning the next phase of the Greytown trails network. This fits into the wider Wairarapa trails initiative called The Wairarapa Five Towns Trails Network. Spanning the Waiohine River and connecting it to the existing trail network is the next big Five Towns Trails' project and Carterton District Trails Trust is leading this work.



Construction underway by Abseil Access

## AWARD

The Trust is very proud to receive the accolade "Club of the Year" from the Greytown Sport and Leisure Society. The award recognises the enthusiasm and commitment of the Trust and its volunteer members. Read more about this on our website.

## NEW WEBSITE

We now have a new website, the address can be seen at the bottom of this page. Go along and have a look if you haven't already and you might learn something new about our trails and our organisation.

## LITTER

It has been noticed by regular visitors to the trails that there is an increasing amount of litter, **PLEASE** don't drop your rubbish, take it home and dispose of it!

## TRAIL HERO

Phil Cox is one of our trustees and in conjunction with his wife Karen and John Bushnell, chair of the Trust, has recently completed a much needed upgrade of the Trails Trust website. He has also been the main instigator behind the design and development and support of the Greytown Country Market website. This website has been a huge contributor towards the success and smooth running of the market which has proven to be a great source of fund raising required for trust activities in maintaining the Greytown Rail Trail.

Phil also provides support for monthly reporting of the Trail Usage Counters. He was also involved with the establishment of the local parkrun which is held every Saturday morning at the Western end of the trail. Thank you Phil, for all that you do!



## TRAIL COUNT

In 2023 we had **112,419** visitors on the Greytown Trail and **36,305** on the new Tauwharenikau Trail.

Best day -

22 Jan 2023 with **2,337** visitors!

## GEOCACHING ON THE TRAIL



Allan Taylor from Kapiti helping clear the weeds on the trail

On a damp Saturday in November a willing group of geocachers, organised by Greytown local Barbara Thompson, held a CITO (Cache in Trash Out) event on part of the new Tauwharenikau Trail. Their mission was to try and clear as much weed as they could, and full credit to them, they managed to fill ten very heavy fadges in a short space of time. There is talk that they may make this a regular event and adopt this part of the trail to keep weed free and tidy. Thank you very much to all that helped on the day.

Geocaching is a type of global treasure-hunt involving people looking for hidden stashes of objects – or “geocaches”. Geocaching may also be described as a series of hide-and-seek games, where hiders provide online clues for seekers. Seekers use global positioning system (GPS) devices, or their phones, to find hidden geocaches. CITO is an environmental initiative supported by the geocaching community. Since 2002, CITO has enabled geocachers to beautify and restore natural and urban spaces. Want to know more? Visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) where you can create an account for free and get started straight away.

## DOGS

**Dog control on the Greytown Trails network has now become a significant problem.** The Greytown rail trail network is a great facility for all manner of users. Significant in this growth is dog walkers. Unfortunately, the requirement to have dogs on a lead is being ignored by the greater majority of dog walkers. Dogs are welcome on the trails however in recent times there have been a number of incidents involving dogs who have been allowed to roam off the lead by their owners. Recently the Trails Trust undertook an awareness exercise on the trail which lasted a number of weeks. On most days our Trail Ambassadors found that compliance with the requirement to have dogs on leads was very low. On many occasions most if not all dogs were uncontrolled or off the lead. The trail crosses private land in most parts of the trail network and it is an important part of the agreement with local landowners that dogs are kept on a lead. It is also a hazard for cyclists and other users of the trail. The issue has been highlighted by a number of dog attacks which in two cases left trail users injured.

Please continue to enjoy walking your dog on the trail network but please keep your dogs on leads at all times. This is not only a requirement of the Trust but is also covered by the South Wairarapa District Council's bylaws on dog control. Thank you!



**GREYTOWN COUNTRY MARKET**  
3rd Sunday of every month – Oct thru March  
[greytowncountrymarket.org.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:bmcole@orcon.net.nz)

## HOW TO DONATE

To make a donation please contact Kathleen - [trailblazergtt@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.parkrun.co.nz/greytownwoodsidetrail)