

TRAIL BLAZER

The newsletter of the Greytown Trails Trust

May 2014



It seems the Trail is now firmly in the public consciousness. The local Cubs earned their cycling badges one evening recently on the Trail, and individuals have been using it for training runs (see Dave's story overleaf). Kuranui students, including a young woman in a wheelchair, used the Trail for a 10km fundraising walk / run (right), and the local Lions held a community picnic. One of our strategic aims is to grow awareness and we're pleased this seems to be happening. So why not get involved - you can become a Friend of the Trail for just \$10 per year (see pg 2). And we're on Facebook, where you'll find news and updates on working bees and other events. Happy winter Trailing!

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From left, Robyn, Rosey & Julie Williamson



Will's wake up call on rubbish

Will McMaster, 13, is getting first hand experience of our littering habits through his project for the Bronze Duke of Edinborough award. He is picking up rubbish on the Trail every week for the next three months, as part of the Service component of the award. The Rathkeale student was keeping a cheerful attitude as he showed me a full shopping bag of rubbish collected at the Cotter St end of the Trail (right), explaining that he'd picked up another the same size the week before at the Station end. "We use the trail a lot so it's great for him to do something local and useful," said his mother Helen. "Hopefully the amount of rubbish will diminish over the three months!" Will is also coaching young tennis and hockey players, as part of the award. There are no rubbish tins on the Trail but rubbish can be left in a bin at the new Dog Exercise area at the Cotter St end. Spare a thought for Will before you litter!



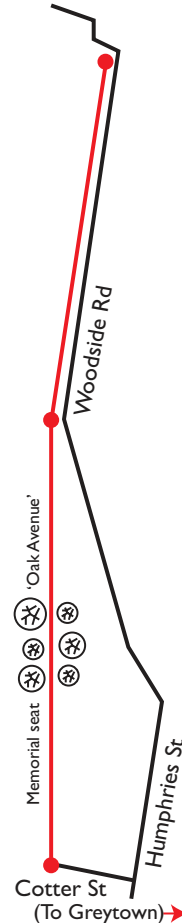
Seriously good effort by Kuranui students

Kuranui Collage's fundraiser for seriously ill Year 11 student Jacob Skinner was a colourful affair with many wearing costumes and Ryan Tobin unicycling the 10km as a sponsored ride. By the end of the route, a number had ditched their shoes due to blisters but they were rewarded with refreshments which raised almost \$600, in addition to the \$900 raised by the mufti Trail trip. In total, the College raised just over \$4,000 for the Skinner family.

Family memorial adds to enjoyment of Trail

The Williamson family has created a peaceful spot to rest with the memorial seat to their parents Margaret and Doug, installed at the east end of Trail. "We were very pleased with the seat and it's location, and really appreciate your efforts to make all this happen," says Rosey Williamson. The seat was made by Masterton artisan furniture maker Jeremy Bicknell. The couple enjoyed their retirement in Wairarapa. There are plans for a dedicated area for planting memorial trees on the Trail. Those interested can contact Treasurer Jenny Tossell E: jennytossell@hotmail.com.

Woodside Station



Access the Trail at the three points marked in red.

'Why I Love the Trail': Dave Butler-Peck, Greytown Community Sport & Leisure

"In January of this year, a few of us from GSF aka 'Greytown Special Forces' ran the length of the Trail as part of our weekly training to stay fit over the summer. I can't remember whose idea it was, but we suddenly found ourselves signed up to the half marathon at Round the Bays in Wellington a few weeks later. The 5km Trail is the perfect training run, especially with such beautiful views on a sunny day. As race day got nearer, we even did half again to push ourselves to 15 kms, which really helped with those last few k's during the race. Russ Hooper and I chose to raise

money for his daughter Lily who needs a second cochlear ear implant. So many local people were incredibly generous and that motivated me throughout. Since then I've become a regular on the Trail and have now completed the Round the Vines half marathon and the Xterra off-road race. It's a wonderful asset to the town and an ideal way to train."



David Pitt

Trail Hero: David Pitt

This issue, we'd like to acknowledge the hard work of David Pitt who has built, (with John Hume), the Trail entrances, bridges and display board surrounds. Carpentry is not, in fact, one of David's passions. Instead, it was his childhood connection to Woodside that prompted him to get involved when the project was first mooted. "I used to live in the home now owned by Bob Tosswill. The railtrack was surrounded by gorse and I remember it crossed our driveway," he says. The most enjoyable aspect of the project has been "seeing people using the Trail": "I was sitting at the culvert and a boy came up with a dog and was

watching it have a swim. It's those sorts of things that make all the work worthwhile." Sincere thanks to David (and John) for the Trail's attractive built structures.

Trail a 'geocaching' hot spot

Over the past few years, Greytown locals John and Kathleen McKenzie have been putting the Trail on the map for the national and international 'geocaching' community. They have placed six 'caches' on the route, bringing the total to seven, and dozens of others in the Wairarapa and beyond. Listed as among the top 50 geocachers in New Zealand, the dynamic duo say the activity can be enjoyed by anyone with a reasonable degree of fitness, though it tends to appeal to 'outdoors types'. The first step is the geocaching website (see below), where you can find the locations of thousands of 'caches' which are like prizes in a giant treasure hunt that stretches from your own region to across the globe. "Wairarapa is one of the most densely cached regions in New Zealand. There are literally thousands of caches from Woodville to Featherston, taking in the Tararuas," they say. Using a GPS or a SmartPhone (with a geocaching app), the aim is to find the hidden caches, which are containers sometimes as small as a button or as large as a rubbish bin. Inside each cache is a log which you must sign and date before recording your 'find' on the website. The caches have been deposited by other geocachers and the fun arises from the unique, sometimes obscure locations they are placed in. "There's one in Plimmerton harbour that you have to dive for, and in Australia you might encounter snakes on your way to some of the caches," says John. Some require you to solve a puzzle or a physical challenge in order to extract the container. With 4,200 cache finds under their belts, John and Kathleen wanted to place caches in Greytown to bring people to the town and help local businesses. The couple is planning a trip to the U.S. later this year, and you can be sure their geocaching equipment will be going along for the ride too. Find out more at www.geocaching.com.



John & Kathleen McKenzie

Novel fundraiser promises entertaining times

Buying a 2014 Entertainment Book is a great way of getting deals on dining, movies and other entertainment, while at the same time supporting the Trail. Trust member Margaret Cole has been selling the books for the past two years, and says the initial cost of \$60 can be quickly recouped. The books contain hundreds of vouchers for venues from Wellington to Palmerston North and throughout Wairarapa. For a taste of what is on offer, go to: <http://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/about/Tell-me-More>. Money raised is being used to fund on-going maintenance of the Trail, with nearly \$700 raised so far. Please contact Margaret T: 06 304 8499 / E: bmcole@orcon.net.nz.

'Stage 1' open to wheelchairs

Wheelchair users now have access to 2.5km of the Trail from the Cotter St entrance to Woodside Rd, by entering a gate at the Cotter St end. For the gate's lock combination, please contact T: 027 222 7599 or E: anne@geradtaylor.com. Access to the Woodside Station end can also be arranged in advance by contacting Anne.

BECOME A FRIEND

We now 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 T: 06 304 8499 / E: bmcole@orcon.net.nz.

HOW TO DONATE

Your donations help us keep the Trail tidy and enjoyable. \$25 buys one tonne of lime, \$100 buys a month of mowing, and \$250 buys a truckload of lime. There are donation boxes at the Cotter St and Woodside Rd entrances. Online donations at 06-0689-0291994-00 (please mark with DONATION and your surname). Cheques to Greytown Trails Trust can be sent to Treasurer Jenny Tosswill, Woodside Rd, Greytown.

Our Sponsors & Supporters:

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