



Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust AGM
14 October 2019
Chair Report to 30 June 2019

The Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust priorities for the 2018/19 year have been:

- Construction and access negotiations to take the Great Taste Trail from Wakefield to Tapawera
- Dun Mountain/Coppermine Trail upgrade, maintenance and rebranding
- Submissions to Nelson City Council (NCC) Annual Plan and working with staff from both NCC and TDC on cycle related matters
- Review of the Trust marketing strategy, refreshing the website and a new GTT brochure
- Continuing engagement with NRDA on their regional identity work and profiling of cycling in regional marketing

Trail construction & maintenance

It's been a busy and successful year on the construction front. With the GTT now close to completion from Wakefield to Kohatu, there will be 57km of continuous trail from Nelson to Kohatu. Thanks to our Trail Manager Josh Aldridge, for the superb job he is doing managing a range of construction and maintenance projects on both the Great Rides.

Storm repair work on the GTT from the destructive November 2017 and February 2018 storms continued into the second half of 2018 with a further grant from the Central Government MGR (Maintaining the Great Rides) fund of \$300k. The storm repair work has enabled upgrading and improved resilience (fingers crossed!) of some sections of the trail.

Following approval in principle in the previous year for Central Government funding towards the completion of the GTT from Wakefield to Tapawera and down the Motueka Valley, trail construction was completed from Norris Gully to Kohatu and well underway for Wakefield to Hoult Valley Rd. A big thank you to landowners who have allowed access for the trail on this section. Access negotiations have progressed well from Kohatu to Tapawera. Tasman District Council have provision in their Long Term Plan for matched funding to complete the Trail.

At the other end of the Great Taste Trail, Nelson City Council are supporting an extension of the Trail from the Airport to Tahunanui and route negotiations are underway. We look forward to the day when a shared cycle/walking path around Rocks Rd into Nelson city will offer an alternative to the railway reserve route!

Several improvement projects have been underway for the Coppermine Trail, with funding from the MGR fund, Nelson City Council and the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Trail has been re-established with a boardwalk/bridge over the slip between the Brook and 3rd House, and plans developed for

stabilising the slope above the pipeline section of track on the Maitai and re-opening this section. Work began on upgrading the Trail from Coppermine Saddle down to the Maitai Valley.

We are also assessing with NCC the potential for a track from Coppermine Saddle to the Maungatapu Saddle that would link the Queen Charlotte Track and Link Pathway to the Coppermine Trail and provide an improved cycle route from Marlborough to Nelson.

Fund raising

With the successful application in 2017/18 to the MBIE Great Rides Extension and Enhancement Fund (E&E Fund) for funding to complete the full GTT loop and commitment of matched funding from both Councils, the focus in 2018/19 has been on construction work rather than further fund raising.

The Trust is very appreciative of the support from both Tasman District and Nelson City Councils for the two Great Rides. They are proving a significant community and visitor asset. The trail counters recorded 168,078 single direction cycle trips on the GTT and 4,988 on the Coppermine Trail in the 12 months to June 2019. This doesn't include walkers and runners who also make regular use of the trails.

Support from a range of other individuals and organisations is important, with a mix of donations, mate's rates and volunteer labour enabling central and local government funding to go further. It is estimated that more than 1500 volunteer hours were contributed to the Trust and in maintenance/construction work during 2018/19. We also appreciate the financial contribution of 58 Official Partners which helps fund an Administrator to provide support for volunteer Trustees, and marketing work.

Marketing and business development

We have this year reviewed the Trust marketing strategy and collateral. The Trust's marketing focus is on providing information through our web site (www.heartofbiking.org.nz) on the "tastes" of Nelson-Tasman accessible on the GTT, and the uniqueness of the Coppermine Trail. We also profile out Official Partner Businesses and the services they provide, and have links to information on other cycling opportunities in the region.

The website has had a major overhaul to better present the two Great Rides. A new GTT brochure and map has been published. We have decided to rebrand the Dun Mountain Trail as the Coppermine Trail and are creating a new Coppermine brochure.

This was the fifth year of the Trust's arrangement with Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA) to put resources into cycle trail related destination marketing. We are pleased to see the consideration NRDA has given to cycling in their destination marketing work.

Communications to the public and partners have included Official Partner updates and forums, press releases and publicity in hard copy and social media.

Other activities

New Zealand Cycle Trails Inc (NZCT) - a stand-alone national agency for the 22 "NZ Great Rides" was established in 2013. TDC and NCC are NZCT members for the GTT and the Dun Mountain Trail, respectively. The Trust provides an additional contact for NZCT for both rides, and was represented at the NZCT AGM and Forum in September.

Trail surveys - a sixth year of a face-to-face survey of trail users was carried out in January. There is also now an NZCT survey on the website and we have been encouraging trail users to complete that survey.

226 people completed the on-line GTT survey over the 12 month period, with an average satisfaction score of 8.7/10. 23% were visitors who spent an average of 7.25 nights in the region. 7% were walkers/runners. 59% were aged over 50. The Coppermine statistics were 173 surveys completed, satisfaction score 8.3, 17% visitors staying for an average of 4.27 nights, 6% walkers/runners and 33% aged over 50.

Administration - Marika Kingan who has been the Trust's Administrator for the past 6 years left us this year. Thank you to Marika for the efficient and effective support you have provided. We are fortunate to have Gillian Rowe step into the Administrator role. Thank you also to Chelsea Pannett and Milnes Beatson in Motueka for providing accounting support for the Trust.

Financials

The Trust is in a sound financial position, with cash reserves at 30 June 2018 of \$655,557. This enables an operating buffer, with the balance of funds raised for and committed to construction costs for the completion of the GTT.

Trustees

Long serving Trustee John Kerridge stepped down from the Trust during the year. Thank you John for the time you have put in particularly, but not only, keeping an eye on the financial and administrative aspects of the Trust operations.

We were joined during the year by new Trustee Virginia Watson.

Thank you to all the Trustees who contribute volunteer time to developing a wonderful community and visitor resource for the Nelson-Tasman region.

Gillian Wratt

Chair

Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust

10th October 2019