

Welcome to Trail Talk - A monthly newsletter all about the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail. This newsletter contains information and updates about construction and work on the trail, as well as other aspects including work being carried out with businesses and tourism interests.

February 2015

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# Work Begins on Second Stage

Work has now begun on Stage Two of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, with vegetation clearing from Sections 6 and 7, from Mossburn to Centre Hill Road.

Construction of the trail path will begin on 9 March.

Group Manager Services and Assets Ian Marshall says it's great to see work begin.

"As we move into autumn and winter we face challenges with the weather so it's good to see work begin, we want to get as much done as we can now."

Work on the two sections includes vegetation clearing, fencing and the construction of fences.

Construction is expected to take around six months and is likely to be completed in July.

# Hearing closes



A decision on the resource consent hearing for Stage Two of the cycle trail will be released within 15 working days, with the hearing now closed.

The hearing was held in early February and was adjourned to allow the applicant and planning report authors to compile a list of amended conditions. These have been supplied to Independent Commissioner Denis Nugent.

The Commissioner now has 15 working days to make a decision. Once it is made it will be uploaded to Southland District Council's website. After the decision is released the applicant and submitters have 15 working days to lodge any appeals.

[Find out more about the application and hearing](#)

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## *Paying Tribute*

Visitors to the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail can now take in a slice of New Zealand's history, with an avenue of trees to commemorate Mossburn's fallen.

Mararoa Waimea ward councillor John Douglas said the memorial recognises the sacrifices made by soldiers from the area. The project is a combined effort of the local RSA, the Mossburn Community Development Area subcommittee and Venture Southland.

A year ago the conifers that once lined the rugby field were uprooted and replaced with 23 scarlet oaks, one for each of the fallen soldiers from the area in World War I and World War II.



“Plaques in front of each tree bear the name, rank and date one soldier died to serve as a stark reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by the brave young men,” he said.

A seat and information board may be added later.

John Healy's uncle, Corporal Edward Healy, served in Italy and is among those commemorated. He said the project was a tribute to all those who served so valiantly overseas.

"It's tremendous. It just recognises those guys – not only the guys who were killed in action, but all of the men who served," he said.

His uncle Eddie was killed in Tavarnelle, just outside Florence, in June 1944. For more than 50 years after the war ended, people from Tavarnelle believed their liberators were part of the American forces. However, when former mayor Stefano Fusi began researching the history of the liberation he discovered it was actually Kiwi soldiers who freed the Tuscan town in the summer of 1944.

Memorials such as Mossburn's avenue of trees were a lasting reminder of the sacrifice many young Kiwi men and their families had made overseas, Mr Healy said.

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The Around the Mountains Cycle Trail has had some international exposure, with Kiwi cycling journalist Daniel Carruthers checking out the planned second stage of the trail.

Mr Carruthers is based in Hangzhou and writes the blog *Bikedan in Asia*. He is also a semi-professional cyclist who has represented New Zealand internationally.

He also wrote a piece on the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail Stage One opening.

[Check out his blog here](#)



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