

Welcome to Southland District Council's first Trail Talk – a newsletter about the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail. The monthly newsletter will contain information about construction and other work on the trail, work being carried out with businesses and tourism interests by Venture Southland and information from Around the Mountains Ltd.

June 2014

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October opening set for cycle trail

The opening of stage one of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, from Kingston to Mossburn, is planned for October 31.

The opening ceremony will be held in Lumsden at 2pm and Council hopes residents from all the communities on the trail will attend and maybe ride part of the trail into Lumsden



“We are hopeful of a good day as we have planned this date to avoid winter weather as much as we can,” communications and governance manager Louise Pagan said. Various national politicians who have supported the trail will be invited. More details will follow in the next few newsletters.



Stage one nears completion

The first stage of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, from Kingston to Mossburn, is all but complete.

Council services and assets manager Ian Marshall said the trail is substantially completed, with short and medium length bridges finished and the majority of the trail constructed, including signs and fencing.

“Five suspension bridges, worth \$1 million, are being built at the moment and should be finished in September.”

Mr Marshall said it was great to see the New Zealand Transport Agency get behind the trail as well. The highways team recently installed safety rails on the bridge which crosses the Oreti River at Lumsden, which will prevent any accidental falls over the edge. NZTA has also installed electronic warning signs, and at Five Rivers a track connecting the trail to the café site. The work is worth about \$240,000.

The track will be classified as Grade 1 – meaning it’s suitable for any bike and can be used by novice cyclists.

Mr Marshall said he is pleased with the quality of the trail as it is extremely smooth and fast to ride on. “The trail itself and the quality of its riding surface are excellent.”

New plans for stage two

Details of Stage two of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail are being finalised, with a view to work starting later this year.

A consultant is developing a consent application for a redesigned section of trail in the upper Oreti River area. The proposed route would see the trail move to the opposite side of the river, virtually moving it out of sight from those using the river.

“We’re confident it’s a better solution for everyone who uses the area. It will create greater separation for the user groups.”

Landowners on the proposed route have all given their agreement and Mr Marshall said work can start in other areas where consent is already granted.

In some ways stage two is expected to be more challenging than stage one, as it is being built from scratch whereas a lot of the first section was built on old railway embankments, which required less work. However there are no suspension bridges of the same size as in the first section. Stage two is due to be completed in December 2015.



The Around the Mountains Cycle Trail was showcased at New Zealand’s biggest international tourism event recently.

Venture Southland represented the region at TRENZ, meeting with tourism buyers from all over the world. The cycle trail was positively received, with some agents saying it would be great for the region.



Travel buyers will be kept up to date with trail news and progress. Trenz was attended by 260 international buyers from major and emerging markets. Overall feedback regarding Southland was positive and many agents Venture Southland met worked in the region already.

Please pass this newsletter on to other people and everyone is encouraged to sign up to the database so they can receive the newsletter as well. If you are interested please email Louise Pagan - louise.pagan@southlanddc.govt.nz

