

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.

June 2015



Winter Hits



Poor weather has halted construction on the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail.

Southland District Council Services and Assets Manager Ian Marshall said work had been progressing well but below-freezing temperatures, snow and rain had forced the contractor's hand.

"The weather is being a bit of a nuisance now. If we do get a bit of a fine spell they will be able to crack back into it, but as for right now they have had to stop completely," he said.

Bitter weather across much of New Zealand had almost reached record-breaking lows in some parts of the country. While the situation in Southland had not yet been too dire, it had made carrying on with construction on the second stage of the cycle trail an impossibility.

The Roding Company, the contractor running the site, had been working on Sections 6 and 7 of the second stage of the trail.

Construction on sections 6 and 7 of Stage Two included building bridges, developing boardwalks and track construction from Centre Hill Road back towards Mossburn.

"Section 7 is about 80 percent complete but Section 6, which is the Mossburn end of the cycle trail, is only about 20 percent done," he said.

Mr Marshall said maintenance work on Stage One of the trail had been planned out, but was not scheduled to take place until warmer weather arrived.

"That work is mainly around vegetation control – things like spraying gorse and broom – and

we'll be starting that in the spring," he said.



Working Together

Preparations are well underway for the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail Official Partner Programme which is set to launch soon.

On behalf of Southland District Council, Venture Southland will soon visit communities to talk about the Partner Programme.

Venture Southland Tourism, Events and Community General Manager Bobbi Brown said the programme is important as businesses can tap into Venture's knowledge.

"It's all about maximising the benefits of the trail for the community and local businesses. Working together we can have a unified approach which offers more benefits for everyone."

The programme is designed to acknowledge businesses and supporting industries which provide

a high level of service or product to those using the cycle trail. It is open to all businesses with an interest in the trail.

"Although we have not launched the programme yet, we are welcoming expressions of interest and are happy to talk to people about what we're going to do."

Official partners will be included in marketing and promotion of the trail and will be able to use the official partner logo which shows they have met standards defined by the guidelines.

The Official Partner Programme is a joint project of Southland District Council, Around the Mountains Cycle Trail Ltd and Venture Southland.

For more information email cycletrail@venturesouthland.co.nz

