

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.

September 2014



Trail progresses with new consents lodged

Resource consent applications have been lodged for part of the second stage of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, as stage one nears completion.

Stage two, from Walter Peak to Mossburn, covers 86 kilometres and work is expected to begin in November on the sections which have already been given consent. Around 30 kilometres of proposed trail near the upper Oreti River and Centre Hill Road needs resource consents from Environment Southland and Southland District Council.

Consent had been sought in 2012 but a commissioner declined consent for that section due to concerns around river works and their effects.

Southland District Council Group Manager Services and Assets Ian Marshall said council has taken this on board and worked hard to find another way forward.

“There has been a lot of hard work and a lot of time and effort gone in to studying the alternatives so we can put a very thorough application together. We focused on the issues the commissioner released at the last decision.”

There are two significant changes; with a new lower and longer bridge over a section of the Oreti River, rather than an originally proposed suspension bridge. This will have a lesser impact visually and on the river. The other major change is to the proposed path the trail would take, moving it away from the river.

Council has spoken to stakeholders such as Fish & Game Southland which had raised concerns about the previous proposal and the public will get the opportunity to view the resource consent application and make submissions.

Mr Marshall said care had been taken to address concerns raised, with measures such as contractors reducing any environmental impact by timing bridge construction around fish spawning.

It's hoped a decision will be made by the end of this year.

The expected finish date for the 189km Around The Mountains Cycle Trail is December 2015.



Work to finish stage one of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail is set to be completed by the end of September, a month before the official opening date. The Golden Gate Bridge of Athol (pictured) is among the last pieces of construction to be completed.

Trail making a splash in Lumsden



The Lumsden Community Swimming Pool Trust will be the first local group to benefit from using the cycle trail to hold a community event.

On November 1, the day after the official opening of stage one, the trust has organised a fundraising event which will see people take to the trail to raise money for an upgrade of the pool's heating system.

The upgrade could cost more than \$200,000 and may include a solar heating system and new roofing. It's expected to cut diesel costs of \$23,000 a year by around 75 percent.

Committee member Dave Allnutt said using the trail was an obvious choice.

"It was a no-brainer. What better opportunity to get good publicity for Lumsden, the pool and to raise some funds."

People can sign up to undertake a sponsored run, walk or cycle on the trail. It's hoped at least 100 people will take part. There are no restrictions on distance or start times but people must finish by 3pm. Registrations open at the end of September.

Southland District Council has had a lot of interest in running events on the cycle trail, with other requests having been made. It has been decided requests to hold community events will go through the Allocations Committee process and fees will be sought.

[Find out more about the Lumsden Community Pool fundraiser on Facebook](#)



Going the distance

Distance markers are being added to the trail. They'll be located every 1 kilometre and set on old railway sleepers, in keeping with the theme of the trail. They have been designed to compliment other signage and will be also used as points of reference for cyclists and emergency services.

Communities support celebrations

Forget Halloween, a far more exciting occasion will be celebrated in Lumsden on the afternoon of October 31.

The first stage of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail will be officially opened by a special guest, yet to be announced, with the ceremony taking place next to the trail beside the Lumsden Railway Station.

Southland District Council Communications and Governance Manager Louise Pagan said representatives from the five communities the stage passes through will attend, along with Mayor Gary Tong, Councillors and the public.



“It’s going to be a great afternoon, our communities have been working together to help bring this event together and we’re all looking forward to celebrating the opening.”

The opening ceremony will be followed by a community fair with stalls and activities for adults and children. There will also be giveaways and it’s hoped a band will perform. Exactly what the opening will entail is being kept under wraps but Mrs Pagan said one thing is for sure. “Bicycles will play a key role in the event.”

The opening will be postponed if the weather is inclement. If this is the case it will be advertised on our website, facebook and community radio.

- Food stalls & barbecues will start at 12pm, with the official opening at 1.30pm. A community fair & activities will follow the opening.



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