
The latest news from Matakana Coast Trail Trust

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READ OUR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Omaha,

It has been a busy spring for the [Matakana Coast Trail Trust](#) (MCTT), as we raise funds, confer with government agencies, landowners, and local contractors to progress the design, planning, and development of the Matakana Coast trail network. Significant progress has been made, with easements granted and major donations gifted to us, for which we are incredibly grateful.

We have also had some fun on two wheels and filmed MCTT Deputy Chair Allison Roe and philanthropist Ian Hutchinson talking about our goal of building a trail network of which we can all be proud. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the final cut.

Our October newsletter gives a snapshot of progress to date and details some future plans. Warmest thanks for your ongoing support and interest in the delivery of a trail network that will help to transform the region's health, wealth, road safety, and sustainability.

LIFE ON TWO WHEELS WITH MCTT CO-CHAIR AIDAN BENNETT



Aidan Bennett and his wife Michelle recently rode Waikato's newly minted Te Awa Trail, aka 'The Great NZ River Ride'.

"This is a wonderful asset for the Waikato and only reinforced to me how popular our Puhoi to Mangawhai trail will be when it is completed," says Aidan.

"We drove to Cambridge on a Sunday morning, hopped on our e-bikes and did the section of the trail between Cambridge and Hamilton that follows the Waikato River. We were lucky to get a sensational day. It's a good ride there and back – just under 26kms each way, with a combination of wide concrete paths as well as wide bridges and boardwalk structures going along the riverside, through farmland, villages and past lovely homes. On the way back we stopped at a country cafe in Tamahere for a late lunch before returning to Cambridge. After a short rest we did the 9.5km ride from Cambridge to Lake Karapiro and then came back again. A riding day of around 70kms all told.

While the temperature was still a little chilly, Cambridge was buzzing with bikes all over the place and where we stayed had a good number of cyclists staying. The trail looked like it was making a great contribution to the Waikato economy."

EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUHOI CARPARK AND CYCLEWAY STAGING AREA



Representatives from MCTT, Puhoi Community Forum, and Auckland Council had a field visit to Auckland Council Puhoi Pioneers Memorial Park at the beginning of October. The purpose of their get-together was to assign roles and discuss next steps in progressing the carpark expansion and development of the cycleway staging area.

MCTT applied for funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment) to improve the parking infrastructure in Puhoi village and support the development of the trail network from there to Warkworth, and beyond.

This project is the cornerstone of MCTT's Stage 2 trail network development, linking Puhoi to Warkworth and directing connecting to Stage 1 of the trail, which connects Warkworth to Matakana and Snells Beach.

SNELLS BEACH SCHOOL ROLLED UP THEIR SLEEVES TO HELP TREES FOR SURVIVAL



MCTT trustee and owner of Solway Deer Farm, Shelley Trotter, is in the process of granting a significant easement across her land through which the trail will run. Parts of the farm have been in the family for about 60 years, but there's been a Trotter farming in the Duck Creek catchment for 145 years. Trotter's focus is on protecting the whenua for future generations, including people being able to move around the landscape by 'people power.' This is important to community resilience.

This has meant removing pine trees, planting natives and protecting Duck Creek by fencing off the riparian margin where there is now room to host MCTT's trail. It has also meant a planting programme that has stretched over several winters, including outreach to the community through the [Trees for Survival](#) (TfS) programme. This year, Snells Beach School and Horizon School students helped plant out. The photograph above shows Year 4 students from Snells Beach School taking instructions from Frankie Hofland, TfS programme coordinator.

Frankie is also part of the Pakiri trail group that is currently working on the route from Pakiri Hall to Pakiri Motorcamp, which is a nice bit of synchronicity.

PLANTING OUT AT TE WHAU WALKWAY, SNELLS BEACH



Wearing their Mahurangi Trail Society hats, Shelley Trotter and Gary Heaven helped to manage plantings on Te Whau walkway this winter. Shelley is also a trustee of MCTT and Gary also serves on the Trail Working Group for the Trust. These plantings were a collaboration between Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council, Community Facilities, NZ Biosecurity, and local neighbouring landowners.

Here's a huge shout-out to the volunteer planters who gave up their time to help out. There were approximately 30 volunteers of all ages, spread across children, teens, their parents and grandparents.

There is a chance the official end of the Warkworth to Snells Beach section of the trail will be at Dawson's Landing, on the Mahurangi River/Harbour. Ideally, people will be able to cycle one way and take a boat with bike racks back to Warkworth, or vice versa. The connections at the Snells Beach end are nearly all built and/or shovel ready. Due to archaeological issues, Te Whau currently has stairs so this would need to be resolved if the trail does indeed head out this way. Watch this space.

SURVEY WORK AT SOLWAY DEER FARM



Sandy Rowe from Warkworth Surveyors has been busy surveying Solway Deer Farm, in readiness for creating a 5-metre-wide easement adjoining the road boundary. As you might appreciate, such work is all part of the legal process when an easement is formally agreed upon with a landholder.

Walkways result from a collaborative process between a landholder who wishes to create a walkway on their land and Herenga ā Nuku. Herenga ā Nuku manages the legal process to create the walkway. Walkways over private land are made by registering a walkway easement against the land, with agreement from the landholder.

Behind the scenes, MCTT is devoting countless hours of work to tick all the boxes so the trail network can be built.

INSPIRED TO HELP HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY



Gratitude shout out to local hero Ian Hutchinson (aka Hutch) of Hutchinson Consulting Engineers. Hutch's generous pro bono work for MCTT includes design, consenting and construction projects, and now amounts to more than \$150,000. This contribution is making a huge difference to our community-led project to build New Zealand's best trail between Puhoi and Mangawhai, for which we are reliant on both private and public funds.

Read the full story about Hutch's philanthropy in a recent article published in Mahurangi Matters.

[Read article](#)

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION

MCTT is hopeful of funding most of the trail network by accessing grants from government agencies. However, we are also reliant on business and philanthropic donations to achieve our target of \$53m.

The trail network will be developed in three stages and Stage One is close to being shovel-ready. This stage of the trail has a BCR OF 6.3, at an estimated cost of \$13-\$14m.

The entire project has a BCR OF 2.9 and planning is well advanced and has an estimated cost of \$53m.

Huge gratitude to two local philanthropists who gifted MCTT nearly \$500k. Their major contribution will be put to excellent use as we ready contractors to commence work on xxxx. Please consider making a donation so we can reach our goal of delivering New Zealand's most memorable and cost-effective trail network, from Puhoi to Mangawhai.

Donate



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