



Update - Feb '24

www.tekapotrails.nz

Get to know your local trails

Hi Tekapo Trails Members

Always seems to be a lot happening albeit some of it is behind the scenes. However, happy to report some visible progress out there too.

Peninsula Trail:

Thanks to another great working bee turnout, we finished marking the existing trail with our markers, and marked and cut a rough trail out to Godley Peaks Rd. Thanks to Michi's GPS skills, this is on the Unformed Legal Road and has been given the ok by the neighbours, Balmoral Enterprises. More to be done after some rain when we can use the weed eaters without the risk of burning down the Mackenzie Basin.

Monk Fencing installed two gates, one on the boundary fence and one at the carpark. No more negotiating the non-swinging council gate. More to be done.



MDC will provide metal for here and George Scott sometime soon.

Picnic tables installed

Both table settings installed, one at Willow Bay and one below the scanner above the town. The engraved plaques were those people who donated \$50 or more about 5 years ago for the 'Buy a Plank' campaign we ran to raise money for the footbridge over the McGregor Stream. So perfect we found the ideal home for them.



We do have two other tables on Lagoon Trail so if you want a plaque, they now cost \$100.00.

(The generous past owner of Timaru Engravers donated them). Get in touch if you do.

"Know Your Local Trails"

We realised that many Tekapo locals are unaware of trails on their doorstep sometimes due to poor signage or information which we are endeavouring to rectify.

We will run monthly walks/bikes to showcase some of the trails TTS has had input to and our first one was trialled in January. A pleasing turnout of locals attended, including two bikers and a generous offer from Tekapo Autos meant drink and snacks were provided. Our first one was to showcase the Easy Flow and Throne Trails in the Regional Park which due to tree felling had no directional signage. Temporarily rectified. We were lucky to have Stan Taylor, Chair of the Regional Park Society, speak about the ECAN tree felling and express our mutual dismay at the promised rehabilitation that has not lived up to expectations. **Please attend the Public Meeting with ECAN on Tuesday 21 Feb or Wednesday 22nd Feb at the Hall to find out more.**



The walks will be advertised on the Community page and a note sent out to all members. We will be looking for people to help run them. It's easy. A Sunday morning at 9.00am seemed a good time. **Get in touch if you can help.**

Tekapo Forest - our future playground

You may remember a previous update mentioned TTS has a 3 year contract with MDC to put trails in the forest behind the township between Cowans Hill and the river.

You may notice several blue triangles appearing on pruned up trees that seemingly go nowhere but bear with us, there is a master plan of connected trails for walking and biking. We aim to have entrances at the Cemetery Carpark and the Dump entrance, where the gate has been removed.

Also good signage and wayfinder posts at junctions and finally a map on our website.

Sadly there is a lot of *contorta pine* in this forest which are spreading wilding pines onto Cowans Hill every year and the Council is obligated to felling but no timeline as yet. However, we feel it is worth putting in trails that don't cost a lot, just need pruned up trees and raking. We have plans to back-blade the perimeter trail that borders Cowans Hill when the fire risk is over. Also convince the council to rabbit poison to hopefully put a halt to the lumpy ground caused by their burrowing. Scope for other activities.

Interpretation Panels along the CSI Dog Kennel Corner to Tekapo Trail:

Our committee has voted unanimously to support and manage the design, construction and most importantly community input into interpretation panels along this stretch of trail. They will be constructed of heavy duty timber, corten steel and stone and depict themes such as Our Natural Landscape, Our Farming History, Tekapo Township History and our Hydro Story with smaller structures, e.g the lupin story, flora and fauna etc. to be added as funding allows. They are allowed to be placed at safe vehicle pulloff areas with the last two suggested to be at Hamilton Drive and beside the turbine below Jack Rabbits which has no explanation. MDC have plans to tell the Maori History so we will be working with them as well.

We are very much in the early planning stages, getting rough estimates for initial designs for funding purposes, but this project will very much be a Community Project and will develop as we seek input. **More to come on this one!**

Donations:

We are grateful to our local Outside Sports Store who make monthly donations to Tekapo Trails from their bike rentals. We have also received a substantial donation from the Stubbs family of Sealy Street who promise to spend more time in Tekapo. To those and all donations and membership received, TTS expresses its gratitude.

Tj McConchie - Chairperson 0274 862 489
Annie O'Sullivan - Secretary 021 151 3742