

# UPPER CLUTHA TRACKS TRUST

## Report from the Chair, AGM 2019

The Trust has had a moderately successful year. We are pleased to report that three projects have been successfully completed while progress is being made on other projects in our portfolio.

The year commenced with the opening of the Hawea River swing bridge accessibility ramp. The opening ceremony was attended by approximately 100 people which showed the level of enthusiasm for the project.

This ramp was the result of work overseen by the Trust's accessibility sub committee of Geoff Wilson and Brian Weedon. We were fortunate to have the services of Tim Cross from the Department of Conservation (DOC) for the design and engineering of the structure. The building of the ramp was completed by Roy Bailey and his team.

The ramp has proved very popular with walkers and bikers of all levels as well as those requiring easier access to the Hawea River and Newcastle tracks.

This year has also seen the completion of the Cameron Creek section of the Wanaka to Cromwell Great Ride. This track is situated on QLDC land and the 1.5 Km section has been finished to a QLDC and Great ride standard. It has made available to the public a previously unseen and very attractive spring creek right on the outskirts of Albert Town.

The major acknowledgement for the work on the Cameron Creek Track must go to Graham Lee of Diverse Works Ltd who undertook all the initial earthworks and track formation free of charge. This hugely generous contribution is what has allowed the Trust to complete this section of the Great Ride despite hold-ups further downstream. As part of the project, The Hook Ltd has granted an easement along their North boundary which allowed the track to proceed.

We also want to acknowledge the assistance of Sustainable Coastlines, Auckland for their contribution in co-ordinating the planting of 700 native species along the banks of the creek. The official opening of the Cameron Creek Track took place at the Hook salmon ponds and the Trust wishes to thank the proprietors for their generous support.

The third project completed was the extension to the Newcastle Track at Kane Road end. This short, poled route allows users to follow the left bank of the Clutha River all the way to the intersection of Kane Road and State Highway 8A instead of having to complete the last part of the trip on Kane Road itself.

The Trust wishes to acknowledge the assistance of DOC in making the land available for the purposes of this extension.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

The trust is currently working on the following projects.

- Replacement of the steps onto Pawson's Crossing bridge at the Cardrona River with ramps. The design and engineering work is again being done by Tim Cross of DOC and the Trust wishes to thank him for his on-going assistance.
- The connexion to and exit from the existing but incomplete walking track along the true right bank of the Hawea River between the Hawea Dam and Camp Hill Road.
- The completion of the Newcastle Road to Hawea River track link via Devon Diaries farm.
- The Makarora Bush Walk track. This proposed walking track will hopefully be built this coming year with the assistance of DOC and the generosity of the land-owner, Gary Charteris. It will join the DOC nature walk at the north end and continue through native forest to Rata Road at the south end.
- Great Ride, Wanaka to Cromwell. This project is on-going but is constrained by land-owner access issues and the DOC Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) requirements. The Trust expects that these can be resolved and work can proceed in the near future.

Access to Wanaka along the proposed route from Monteiths Road via the Mt Iron track has now been compromised as a result of a new NZTA requirement for and underpass on State Highway 6 at Albert Town instead of the previously approved level crossing. Negotiations are on-going in an attempt to resolve this issue.

- New Map of the Upper Clutha track network. A funding application from UCTT to QLDC for this work was turned down but successful negotiations with Goographix, map makers of Wellington will allow the Trust to continue without QLDC support. It is planned that the new double-sided map, a joint venture with Bike Wanaka and Active Transport Wanaka, will include not only a printed map of the greater Upper Clutha area and a more detailed Wanaka map but also be available on-line through the Trail Forks app. It will include colour coding and track ability ratings which will coincide with similarly coloured and marked signage at track heads. It is hoped that the new map will be free of advertising material and be available in the coming year.

## FUTURE TRACK WORK

The Trust has other projects in the pipeline.

Completion of the Dublin Bay to Maungawera Road track. It is hoped that this track will reach completion next year. This follows advice from LINZ that impediments to completion should be resolved during 2020.

Walking access to Sentinel Peak from the " Neck".

Discussions are continuing as to whether an access point can be gained from the Neck to the DOC track higher up so that Sentinel Peak can be reached without having to negotiate the impossibly difficult access from Camp Creek.

Cardrona River Track. Progress on this track is held up by land access issues but it is hoped that a combination of new ownership and negotiated access will eventually see a track between Wanaka and Cardrona township.

#### FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP

The Trust wishes to thank the following funders and sponsors who have allowed us to undertake the work.

Central Lakes Trust, QLDC, Orange Lakes Trust, Cardrona Ratepayers Association, Callis Trust, Lion Foundation, Southern Trust, Milton Rotary Trust Tramping Club, Web Donations, Meg Taylor, Max Sheppard, John Langley, Maureen Kernick.

Mitre 10, Wanaka  
Mike Young Landscaping  
Geoff Dickey

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees I want to thank Diana Manson from QLDC for her excellent work as Trust secretary and Anita Middlemiss from DOC who keeps us well informed as to our responsibilities where the department is concerned. Not forgetting my fellow Trustees who generously volunteer their time in the interests the further expansion of our track network.

John Hare  
Chair, Upper Clutha Tracks Trust