



October News

Kia ora Friends and Supporters,

It's been a monumental year for us, and we're thrilled to share exciting updates on the progress of **The Coastal Trail**. Formerly known as the Matakana Coast Trail, we've undergone a significant transformation, marking a new era for this beloved community project. The same charitable trust remains driving the project.

Introducing Our New Identity: The Coastal Trail

We are excited to unveil our new identity as **The Coastal Trail**. This rebrand marks a revitalised chapter for our community project. This new identity captures the spirit of what makes this project so special: the seamless blend of community, native bush, and stunning coastline.

When completed, The Coastal Trail will offer locals and visitors a sustainable and safe way to explore the region's breathtaking landscapes, all while connecting our coastal communities from Pūhoi to Mangawhai via the Matakana Coast.

Be sure to visit our new website at www.thecoastaltrail.co.nz, and keep an eye out for our upcoming billboards and informative marketing initiatives!

A special thank you goes to **Saatchi & Saatchi New Zealand**, led by local resident Mark Cochrane, for their incredible pro bono work on this rebranding effort. Their world-class expertise has breathed new life into our project.



Progress On The Ground: Construction Beginning Next Week!

We are thrilled to announce that construction is starting next week on a critical 2.2km section of the trail, linking **Point Wells** to the **Matakana Country Park** via Omaha Flats and Point Wells Road. This development marks a major milestone, improving safety and accessibility for walkers and cyclists.

Our goal is to complete this section by the end of summer, transforming a once hazardous route into a welcoming path for all to enjoy. This progress wouldn't be possible without tremendous community assistance that has resulted in us raising over \$1 million worth of community support for this project!

We are especially grateful to **Hutchinson Consulting Engineers** for their generous pro bono services and **Mason Contractors** for their construction support. Their contributions, along with the efforts of many local businesses, have been instrumental in advancing this project. Thank you for believing in the vision of The Coastal Trail!



Join Us For For The TRAIL RAISER Fundraiser

Save the date! On **Sunday, November 17th**, from **3 PM**. We're hosting an exciting **fundraising event at The Sawmill Brewery**.

Excellent beer, food stalls, Charlies Gelato, Live Music, Kids games & face painting, raffles & more!

Plus we're launching our Limited Edition **TRAIL RAISER** Matakana Oyster Stout. Proceeds will go towards the development of The Coastal Trail.

It's a perfect opportunity to celebrate, meet fellow trail supporters, and enjoy great food, entertainment, and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you there!



Q & A With Our Newest Trustee - Peter Marsh



Q. Tell us a little bit about yourself and your connection to the area.

I am an active retiree deeply involved in the community, living in Point Wells. My wife Jenni and I purchased a beach house in Omaha many years ago, and over time, we found ourselves spending more and more time here, gradually pulling away from the city. We fell in love with the region, so when the time came to step away from our busy corporate careers in 2011, the decision to settle here was an easy one.

I enjoy golfing and fishing, but my true passion is sailing, especially yacht racing. Over the past 40 years, I've been involved in the governance of various yacht clubs, including our local Sandspit Yacht Club, where I continue to assist with special projects and race management. Jenni and I are proud parents of two married sons and have four

grandsons who are a constant source of joy and pride.

I'm an avid cyclist and have explored many trails across the North Island. With a motorhome, trail riding has become a natural extension of our travels.

Q. Why did you get involved and what excites you about the project?

I've been frustrated for some time by the fact that while New Zealand boasts many fantastic cycle trails, we have very few in our local patch. This is despite the large number of cyclists who live here and the steady stream of tourists and holidaymakers that visit the region. With government funding for such projects unlikely in the near future, I'm eager to push forward and build trails in the meantime using whatever resources we can gather. I was honoured to be invited to join the trust last year, and I'm excited to see our latest trail project—Point Wells to Matakana Country Park—come to life in early 2025."

Q. What are you looking forward to most about the summer of 2024/2025?

Jenni and I will be loading our bikes onto the back of our motorhome and heading to the South Island to ride some of the renowned trails there. That said, I'm eager to see the Point Wells to Matakana Country Park trail completed before we leave—it will definitely be something worth celebrating!

Q. How would you encourage locals to help the trust achieve its vision?

Many of us have seen or experienced some of the incredible cycle trails across New Zealand, and it only makes sense that our region should have its own. Not only will these trails be well-used and enjoyed, but they will also offer safe routes for cyclists and walkers along our busy roads. As a community, we can't afford to wait for central or local government funding, we need to press ahead and build trails with the resources we have. The new Point Wells to Matakana Country Park stage is a great example of what we can achieve, and soon, everyone will see the benefits it brings. But we shouldn't stop there—we have several exciting, shovel-ready projects in the pipeline that will need local support and funding to complete.

Looking Ahead: How You Can Help

While we've made great strides, this is just the beginning! There are many ways to get involved, whether by volunteering, donating, or helping spread the word. Your support is vital to ensuring the continued success of The Coastal Trail.

For more details on how you can contribute, and to stay updated on our progress, visit www.thecoastaltrail.co.nz

Thank you for being part of The Coastal Trail family. Together, we're building a lasting legacy for our community.

With gratitude and excitement,
The Coastal Trail Team



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The Coastal Trail

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