# FRIENDS OF THE TIMBER /

December 2022 Issue 5 Robyn Kehoe | Administrator P: 027 341 4734 E: friendsoftimbertrail@gmail.com W: fott.org.nz/

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We wish you a

happy and safe

holiday season

### Merry Christmas everyone, Kia kaha

Christmas is a time to relax and enjoy life. I trust you will find time to do just that. We have installed tables with seating at various places along the trail and another shelter. *Come for a walk/cycle to see them and enjoy a day out.* 

#### COMMITTEE UPDATES

There have been a few changes to the committee:

- We have farewelled Damita Mita and Bruce Maunsell. Thank you to you both for your foresight in setting up Friends of the Timber Trail, and your commitment, knowledge, and experience since 2018. We wish you well in your future endeavors.
- $\Diamond$ Welcome to new members Frances Rata-Hughes, Victoria Dawson and Russell Malone.

We have also expanded our committee numbers to include iwi representatives from the three hapū along the Trail .

Your committee members are:

- Trevor Irwin Chair
- Robyn Kehoe Secretary
- Alaina Goulding Treasurer
- John Stock
- Lynley Twyman
- Frances Rata-Hughes
- Victoria Dawson
- Russell Malone
- Ewen Fraser ٠

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☆  $\Delta$ THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ☆  $\bigstar$ **ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR** ☆ SUPPORT ☆  $\bigstar$  $\bigstar$ Ruapehu District Council ☆ ☆  $\bigstar$ NZ Lottery Grants Board ☆  $\bigstar$ Trust Waikato ☆  $\bigstar$ Trail Fund NZ ☆  $\bigstar$ Waitomo District Council ☆  $\bigstar$ ☆ ☆ Heartland Community Fund Trust ☆ ☆ Waikato ☆ ☆ ☆ 0110 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ Valtomo ☆ ☆ ☆  $\bigstar$ ☆ ☆ In partnership with ☆  $\bigstar$ COMMUNIT **KING COUNTRY**  $\bigstar$ ☆ EIIND ☆ ☆ \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## **TRAIL ANGELS**

The Timber Trail is the result of many people's efforts, and aside from the Land manager -DOC, we rely on the hard mahi of many other quiet partners.

The Trail Angels are a dedicated band of hard workers from Taranaki who have been travelling to the Trail for over 12 years. They arrive every month to undertake a range of work that spans from clearing fallen trees, wilding pines, cleaning toilets and supporting track maintenance.

Murray, Judy and Bryan turn up in their campervan along with all their own equipment. They have been volunteering their time and resources to make our trail a better ride for everyone – and we would like to extend a massive thank you on behalf of everyone for their hard work.





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#### TRAIL UPDATE

The local Department of Conservation Office has been successful in lobbying for increased staffing capacity on the Timber Trail, in the form of a dedicated Project Lead, Jessie Sinnamon, who will be leading the management and overseeing operational requirements of the Timber Trail.

Additionally they have appointed a dedicated Timber Trail Track ranger, Maadi Waikato. Maadi has worked with DOC Pureora/Maniapoto for some time, but his role will now primarily focus on the consistent and regular cosmetic maintenance and upkeep of the Trail.

The Trail is in excellect condition for the season ahead, following significant work by local contractors Mike Burgess and Bill Holloway. Over the last quarter their work collectively has included landslip clearance, track resurfacing, and larger scale maintenance of culverts, drains and watertables.

## **BENNETT ROAD ENHANCEMENT**

The team at Friends of Timber Trail (an incorporated society that works on enhancement projects for the Timber Trail), are working on creating a welcoming finish to the trail at Bennett Road. This is the start and finish for many and is also an important stop for many Te Araroa walkers and bike packers. On generously hosted private land, we are busy preparing for the addition to two spacious, accessible toilets (replacing a smelly single long drop), along with a shelter – so customers waiting for shuttle pickups or just wanting a reprieve from the weather can hang out.

The Building Consent for the new Bennett Rd toilet has been granted by Ruapehu District Council, and we plan to install it early in the New Year.

We need your help – much of the money has been secured via grants, and our volunteers have contributed many hours to make this happen.

We need to raise another \$30,000 to make this a reality.

You can contribute to the cause directly

via FOTT.org.nz or find out more on the

Timber Trail Developments





