




Makara Peak

Mountain Bike Park Supporters

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015 - 2016**

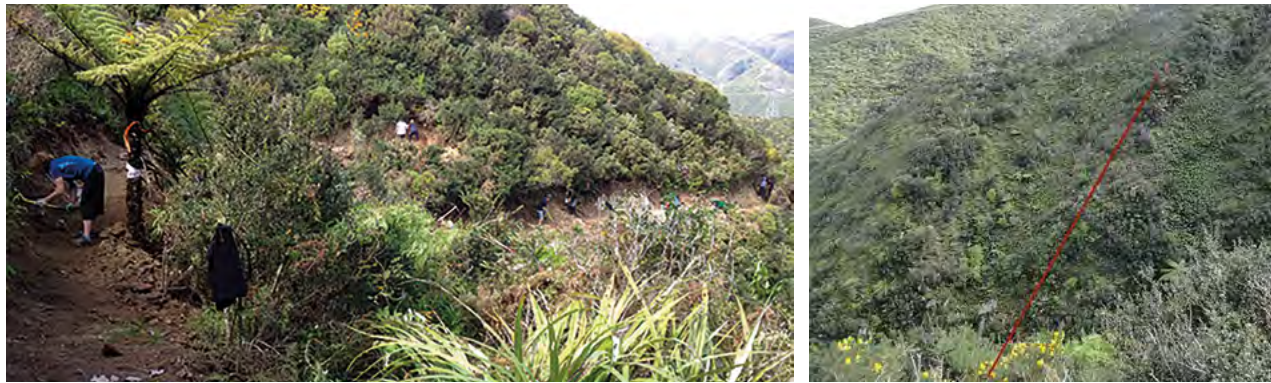


The Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters are a group of mountain bikers, conservationists, walkers, runners and local residents who act as guardians of Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park – working in partnership with Wellington City Council (WCC). Our mission is to create a world-class mountain bike park with dual use tracks (cycling and walking) for all skill levels, in restored native forest.

Since 1998, Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park volunteers have dug, shifted and compacted soil, chipped out rock, cut back branches, built retaining walls, small bridges, and dug drainage channels to create over 40kms of track. We have also planted around 40,000 native trees and continue to eradicate destructive pests (such as possums and stoats) to encourage natural forest generation and increased birdlife.

Makara Peak is unique because it is the first mountain bike park in New Zealand to be developed as a permanent facility in a Scenic Reserve. The summit provides spectacular views of ocean expanse and mountains on both sides of the Cook Strait. Tracks at Makara Peak are generally hand-built to minimise environmental damage and a tree is planted for every metre of track built – this conservation approach is now used in similar projects around the country.

'EASY UP' AND THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE - THE STORY SO FAR...



This has been a big year of planning, preparation and fundraising for the 70m suspension bridge – which will be the first of its kind in an urban mountain bike park in New Zealand!

We've spent the first half of 2016 building the 450m lower section of the 'Easy Up' track from Three Brothers to the bridge site, as well as digging 30m of track on the far side of the bridge site. This will give us access to the bridge site during construction, and also means that people can visit the bridge from the lower section of track while we're building the upper section.

Abseil Access will be building the bridge with lots of help from Makara Peak Supporters volunteer labour – and could be complete as early as November 2016. Once the bridge is open, we'll start digging the upper section of track that links the bridge to Aratihi.

As well as the countless hours of digging, it has also been a big year of fundraising for the 'Easy Up' track and bridge. We raised an incredible \$102,000 in just 11 months – in addition to a very generous initial donation of \$45,000 from one couple, which made the project seem like an achievable goal! This generosity is an indication of how our users value Makara Peak, and want to see it grow. A huge thank you to those that donated.

Thanks to Abseil Access for their willingness to work with volunteers in order to provide a very good price for the suspension bridge. We would also like to thank Wellington Community Trust, Lion Foundation and NZ Community Trust for their substantial contributions to the bridge and track, and WCC for their project management support.

You can check out videos of the development of 'Easy Up' and the bridge on the Makara Peak channel on Vimeo: <http://bit.ly/29X3jSL>

10 DAYS WITH ANZ



We had a huge boost of digging activity on the 'Easy Up' track thanks to ANZ, resulting from several managers who encouraged their teams to pool together their corporate volunteer days to contribute to one big project. This turned into an epic 10 days with eight or so volunteers each day.

The extent of the project, the effort from ANZ, and the well-organised volunteer hosting was recognised by Volunteer Wellington through the Volunteer Wellington Corporate Challenge Award – Employee Volunteering Business & Community Partnership Award 2016.

Volunteer Wellington made a great video showing the stretch of track which the ANZ crew worked on: <http://bit.ly/2ajRucs>

THREE BROTHERS TRACK



Having opened the first and third sections of the Three Brothers track in 2014/15, this year we completed the middle section and officially opened the full 1.5 km track in May 2016. There were some very tough bits in the second section, which can often be the case up at Makara Peak – until you start digging you don't know what will be underfoot! But, with the help of some WCC sponsored explosives, and some Infinity Foundation retaining and hand rail, the last section of the Three Brothers track is now an incredibly fun track to ride.

The Three Brothers track completes an enjoyable, 9 km, grade 3 loop which links Koru/Sally Alley with JFK/Smokin. This loop is a great option when it is too windy to be fun up on the peak, or the legs are just not feeling strong. This has been a huge volunteer effort over the last three years and is an excellent addition to the park.

OTHER TRACK WORK



And, for the gnarlier riders, this year we've added a new rock garden at the southern entrance to T3, which is an old-school track with a bit of a cult following. The rock garden will add a fresh bit of spice to the track, but also acts as a warning to people that it is a more challenging track before they get too far down.

Work on Yeah Gnar, the new grade 6 track which peels off from Trickle Falls, is well under way. We've also upgraded, repaired and worked on switchbacks on Rimu Trail, JFK, Smokin and Starfish. A big thank you to WCC for funding and managing fixes to Peak Flow and Koru too.

EVENTS



Makara Peak has seen a number of mountain bike and running races this year, including: Women of Dirt, Xterra, PNP Spring Race series, PNP MTB Series Enduro, Creek to Peak Relay, and the Donald Trump Freedom Enduro.

THE 'LONG GAME' OF CONSERVATION

A big part of the Makara Peak Supporters' vision is restoring the Scenic Reserve area to native forest, through tree planting and pest control. Riding native forest is so much better than going through pine forest or farmland - it's part of what makes riding there unique. But restoring native forest is not a quick project!

Thanks to countless volunteers over the last 20 years, we are seeing the impact of this enduring effort. The results from the 2015 Bird Count, show a significant return of native birds to Makara Peak, including: a bellbird, a pair of kākārīki, numerous NZ Falcons, a king fisher, and a huge jump in the number of kaka and tui in the park. This shows that the sustained efforts are making Makara Peak a more hospitable place for native birds to be.

This year we've planted 1,200 plants contributed by WCC, Project Crimson and Forest and Bird, including: northern rata, karamu, kohekohe, matai, titoki, kapuka, miro, tawa, kahikatea and totara.

HAZELWOOD GREEN BEFORE & AFTER



We continue developing the area at the corner of Hazelwood Ave and South Karori Rd into a beautiful patch of native forest. We started this year's planting season in this area with seedlings provided by the WCC and Forest & Bird.

ALLINGTON ROAD BEFORE & AFTER



This area at the end of Allington Road was burnt off prior to local residents getting stuck in and planting hundreds of seedling around 20 years ago. These plants are well over head-height now!

KARORI STREAM WEED CONTROL PROJECT

It had been around 16 years since the last major weed control project in the carpark Karori Stream area. So, this year, we've identified what weeds are currently there and developed plans for eliminating and controlling them. We've now removed the high priority problem species, and we're developing a longer-term biosecurity plan to prevent the weeds from spreading throughout the park. As well as improving biodiversity protection for native plants and animals at Makara Peak, this also makes the park entrance look nicer!

CARPARK AND PICNIC AREA



The carpark area has vastly improved since these early days with over 10 years planting and releasing.

KATCH-22



KATCH-22 is the 'pest control arm' of Makara Peak Supporters. With close to 50 volunteers, it is one of the largest pest control groups in the Wellington region - covering Makara Peak, Wrights Hill (Salvation/Deliverance), Birdwood Reserve, Karori Park and Skyline to Johnston Hill.

We would like to say a big thank you to WCC and local volunteers who have supplied new traps which KATCH-22 volunteers have been able to introduce on Wrights Hill through to the Deliverance area. This intensive trapping of pests helps to create a safer corridor between Zealandia and Makara Peak, which in turn helps with the return of Korimako (Bellbird) around Karori Stream. The volunteers have also introduced traps to Johnston Hill to complete the encircling of Karori and closing the gap to Otari/Wilton's Bush.

Thank you to Juliet O'Connell for developing a 'chew card' monitoring plan which will enable us to independently monitor pest numbers. This is the first year we'll be using it, so we are setting a baseline for seasonal changes.

Thanks also to Greater Wellington Regional Council for supplying bait for our 100+ possum bait stations that we have now been strategically placed throughout the park.



FABIAN AND THE IBM CREW



BUSH CLEMATIS - PUAWHANGANGA



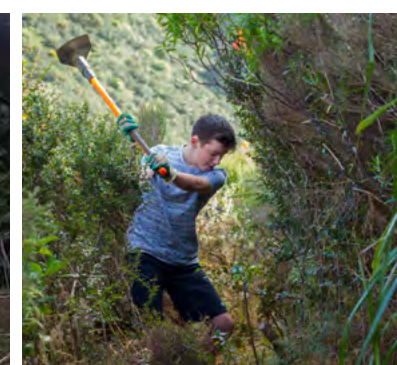
MAKARA PEAK DIG CREW!



IT'S ALL ABOUT MAKING FRIENDS!



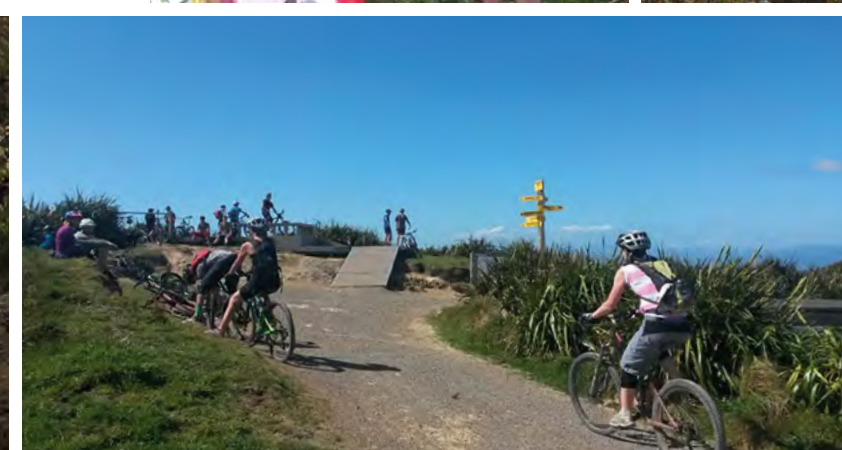
FIRST BRO PLANTING TEAM



YA DIG?



DONALD TRUMP FREEDOM ENDURO!





FROM THE MAKARA PEAK SUPPORTERS COMMITTEE

In February, we surveyed park users to get some insights into what people like about Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park, and what they'd like to see more of. We found some interesting things after talking to almost 600 people:

- 170% increase in park use (since 2000).
- 89% of users come to mountain bike, 6% to run, 3.8% to walk, and 1.3% to walk dogs.
- It is predominantly Wellingtonians who visit, and regularly.
- 36% of park users cycle to the park, and over half drive.
- Park users are 20% female, 80% male - 77% are over the age of 30 years.
- The most enjoyed tracks are Peak Flow, North Face and SWIGG/Starfish.
- Almost a third of park users record their rides on Strava.

In the survey, everybody said they were very satisfied with the condition of the tracks, which is particularly satisfying given that 90% of our tracks are built and maintained by volunteers! This volunteer effort ranges from expertise in trail design, building, conservation, tree planting and releasing, ongoing regular trapping, as well as ad hoc volunteers that come along to work parties.

Things are only going to get better as Makara Peak Supporters have been working with WCC to develop a management plan and 10 year tracks plan. WCC have engaged Morphem Environmental and Trails by Dafydd Davis to manage the process. Dafydd Davis is a Welsh trail planning and design consultant, Morphem are an environmental consultancy based in Wellington.

The master plan will help guide future management and development of the park in a consistent and sustainable manner. The first part of the planning process was a series of stakeholder and user workshop sessions to capture the expertise of those who use the park and gather their aspirations for the future.

Expertise within the committee will help shape the plans and ensure that additions and changes to the trail network see Makara Peak continue to grow towards being a world class mountain bike park.

We look forward to seeing greater investment from WCC to support the development of Makara Peak as a regionally significant facility for a large number of users. The proposed plan is likely to go out for public consultation towards the end of 2016.

We would like to say a big thank you to Wellington City Council for their vital and ongoing commitment to and resourcing of Makara Peak. Thanks also to our contractors - Thomas Lindup (TGL Contracting) and Jon Rosemergy (LaPlodge) - for their hard work on bridges and track surfacing.

And finally, a thousand thank yous to our members and volunteers for all of your contributions to the park - it wouldn't be awesome without you!

Enjoy the ride!

THE COMMITTEE

Simon Kennett
CHAIR

Iain Feist
VICE CHAIR

Dave Nendick
SECRETARY

Oliver Martin
TREASURER

Simon O'Brien
FUNDRAISING

Ross Browne
FUNDRAISING

Anke Hoffman
VOLUNTEERS &
COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Jo Boyle
TRACKS LEADER

Ricky Pincott
TRACKS

Tom Moore
TRACKS

Mark Kent
TRACKS

Brent Hoy
TRACKS

Iain Bramwell
WAYFINDING

Evan McCarney
CONSERVATION
LEADER

Sarah Bramwell
TRACKS &
CONSERVATION

Jamie Stewart
CONSERVATION



www.makarapeak.org

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Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters Incorporated

Income Statement for the period ended 30 June 2016

	30 June 2016	30 June 2015
Income		
Interest Income	\$2,660	\$950
Other Revenue	\$6,775	\$250
Subs	\$6,970	\$5,832
Donations	\$71,883	\$16,553
Events	\$6,739	\$3,583
Grants	\$45,848	\$27,548
Sponsorship	\$0	\$1,000
Total Income	\$140,875	\$55,717
Less Operating Expenses		
Conservation and Pest Control	\$168	\$7,272
Contractors	\$11,903	\$30,173
Depreciation	\$7,919	\$3,049
Food and Beverage / Work Party	\$1,948	\$2,292
General Expenses	\$51	\$359
Printing & Stationery	\$465	\$18
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,126	\$5,031
Telephone & Internet	\$1,497	\$507
Consulting and Accounting	\$849	\$0
Minor assets and materials	\$1,280	\$0
T Shirts	\$789	\$0
Total Operating Expenses	\$27,995	\$48,701
Net Income	\$112,880	\$7,016

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2016

	30 June 2016	30 June 2015
Assets		
Bank	\$15,513	\$4,666
Term Deposit	\$140,000	\$30,000
Receivables	\$0	\$0
Accumulated Depreciation	(\$8,748)	(\$5,549)
Fixed Assets	\$15,500	\$20,955
Total Assets	\$162,265	\$50,073
Liabilities		
Payables	\$2,118	\$425
Total Liabilities	\$2,118	\$6,548
Net Assets	\$160,147	\$43,524
Members Funds		
Opening Members Funds	\$53,364	\$39,259
Plus Net Income	\$112,880	\$14,105
Closing Members Funds	\$166,244	\$53,364

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

PHOTO: © PETE MARSHALL

Corporate Groups

Alcatel-Lucent
ANZ
Chorus
Datacom
Greater Wellington Regional Council
IBM
SAS NZ
Transpower

Donations

Forest & Bird Society
Many Givealittle donors

Grants

Ground Effect
IBM
Infinity Foundation
Lion Foundation
NZ Community Trust
Trail Fund
Wellington Community Trust

Sponsors

Brendon Motors
Mud Cycles

Design

www.visualsby.me

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