



The Kaihu Valley Trail (KVT) Update 8 – April 2022

The Kaihu Valley Trail is a 45km walking and biking track being constructed from Dargaville to Donnellys Crossing. It will form part of the [Ancient Kauri Trail](#) that extends from Omapere to Maungaturoto and be one of [22 Great Rides](#) around New Zealand.

Prepare to be awed by a valley of dramatic contrasts, through farmland and forest, along an enchanting river, capturing historical and cultural stories along the way - become part of the untamed West Coast of Kaipara.

The Kaihu Valley Trail logo

We are pleased to share the logo for the Kaihu Valley Trail. The logo incorporates green land (whenua) and the blue Kaihu River (awa). Native trees shown are (from front to back) - tītoki, tōtara, kahikatea and kauri. The koiri water designs reflect water as it flows up and down the Kaihu River. See the koru in the koiri repeating and turning back on itself - reflecting the former use of the Trail as a rail corridor. The koiri is a symbol of self-reflection and nurturing (to flourish), something we hope users will feel when they are on the Trail - exercise and healthy nourishing benefits for body and soul.



KAIHU VALLEY TRAIL

Temporary sign installed

Last month we installed a temporary sign marking the Dargaville end of the Kaihu Valley Trail. The sign illustrates the trail's route from Dargaville to Donnellys Crossing and will remain in place while physical works are underway.

COVID-19 restrictions meant the temporary sign was erected without fanfare and with minimal attendance.

Check it out on the green at the corner of Station Road and Hokianga Road.



Civil work started

You will have seen some pre work started on the corridor through the Lodestone Property (previously Lugtigheid's Farm). Check out the progress.



We have now crossed over Parore West Road into the corridor heading north. With a well-constructed deep base - inherited from the old railway, this foundation work is going well.

Check out some of the railway artifacts we found during the construction works completed in Dargaville. These artifacts will be looked after by the archaeologists and are likely to be homed in the Dargaville Museum. We also hope to use some of these artifacts in art installations at the "Parore Station".

Places to “stop and ponder”

Thank you to those who have volunteered your support – we will be back in touch once the volunteer tasks are ready to begin.

We are also keen to hear from organisations who would like to be involved in creating places to “stop and ponder” along the trail. This could be of interest for community groups, schools, or marae.

We have had suggestions of a ‘flag-station’ in terms of shelter sheds (roughly 3m by 3m) – at each significant station. These could also function as a rain/wind-shelter for trail visitors. There is potential for each station to tell different stories about that area. Below is a picture of the Kaihu Flag Station (left) looking a bit worse for wear.

If you or anyone you know would like to be part of this initiative, please get in touch with Amanda @ the contact details below.



An example of a flag station. Apparently, a flag would be raised if someone wanted to be picked up!

Are you riding or walking other trails around New Zealand this month?

This is a great time of the year to be riding or walking trails around New Zealand. Some new ones that have opened in the last year include this [epic Queenstown back country trail](#) and the beautiful [Lake Dunstan Trail](#). The coffee boat is very entrepreneurial!

If you have experienced these trails, or you are booked in to go - we would love to get your feedback and photographs to help us to think about the possibilities for the KVT!

If you have questions about the KVT contact our Community Engagement Advisor, Amanda Bennett at abennett@kaipara.govt.nz or kaihutrail@kaipara.govt.nz or call 09 439 1206. See more stories on the trail @ kaipara.govt.nz/kvt

