Kauri Trail Blazers -

Hikurangi Business Association Incorporated

A Proposal to Establish a new shared path north, from Kamo to Hikurangi

Who We Are - A Community Initiative

We are a group of passionate outdoor enthusiasts dedicated to creating a safe, scenic recreational shared path utilising our local forests and quiet country roads.
Our mission is to link the greater Whangarei communities—not just through a physical trail, but through the social and business connections created by walking, tramping, running, cycling, and horse riding.

Our Story

The Spark

Our journey began with a shared love for the incredible outdoor landscape right on the doorstep of the Historical Hikurangi, Kauri, and Glenbervie communities. Realizing this beautiful area was underutilized, we approached the primary landowner, Matariki Glenbervie Forests, to discuss what was possible.
What started as an idea to create a few enjoyable loop tracks quickly evolved into a larger vision: To link communities on safe and fun trails through our beautiful native bush and scenery, avoiding our dangerous, narrow and busy roads.

The Groundwork

"Is this Trail safe for our grandchildren?" With safety as our guiding principle, we set out to find the perfect route. After multiple GPS tracking treks through overgrown hillsides we rediscovered two historic, overgrown tracks with solid, well-formed bases with many culverts already in place.
Members from local running, biking, and equestrian groups mapped the route. It weaves past preserved native bush, follows the impressive Mangahahuru River, and skirts the Glenbervie pine plantation and the Fonterra dairy farm—making it the ultimate scenic and recreational trail.

Powered by the Community

In late 2025, we launched community working bees to clear the path. The response was incredible. Thanks to walkers, bikers, dog owners, and horse riders, the trail opened for walking and running in just six weeks —right in time for the Christmas holidays.
Over the summer the locals rediscovered the river, with many exploring this slice of paradise for the first time despite living nearby for a lifetime. Their feedback has been positive and encouraging which reaffirms our larger vision of community connections and the desperate need for better outdoor access.

The Grand Vision

This trail is a vital piece of a much larger puzzle. Our pathway will connect the Hikurangi township through the Mangahahuru River Trail to Main Road Kauri, continuing south to join the Kamo Shared Path through Whangārei and out to the harbour suburb of Onerahi.
Future plans and possibilities include:

- **East:** Linking Kauri to Glenbervie and onward to the Tutukaka Coast via the old Ngunguru Coach Road.
- **North:** Expanding from Hikurangi to the Russell State Forest and Kawakawa and the Twin Coast Cycle Trail.
- **West:** Connecting Rural communities along the Wairau River, through farmland to Dargaville
- **Creating Day and multi-day rides:** loops linking local towns and beaches

Who is Driving This?

We operate as a working group under the Hikurangi Business Association. We are largely a team of active retirees and passionate e-bikers who have ridden trails all over New Zealand. We want to bring those same safe recreational experiences home to our district.
Our immediate focus is upgrading the Mangahahuru River Trail to a Grade 2–3 cycle trail, while progressing the shared path through Kauri and over to Springs Flat.

Generous Sponsors So Far

This project is a true community initiative, and we couldn't do it without local backing. Massive thanks to:

- **Matariki Forests** - For graciously granting access and supporting recreational users.
- **Rouse Motorcycles** - Donating the use of a project vehicle.
- **Crofts Poles** - Donating timber to build "Crofty's Bridge," which our volunteers incredibly assembled in just one day.
- **Rural Direct** - Donating pipes and materials
- **Dickson's Quarries -** Donating metal for the Trail

