

# Mōtū Trails— Cycle Trail Extensions



## What has been done?

Ōpōtiki District Council has approved a project in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan to develop a cycle and walking trail that will extend and enhance the Motu Trails.

Planning is underway with our neighbours to link Ōpōtiki trails west to Rotorua and south to Gisborne. It is anticipated that these proposals will attract Government support and funding under the Nga Haerenga / Great Rides project.

## What route will the trail follow?

### Waiōtahe & Ōhiwa Trail

This 17km trail will eventually link Ōpōtiki town to Ōhiwa Harbour.

Stage one of the project starts at the Huntress Creek floodgates. The trail heads north to Waiōtahe beach, then west along the coast to the Surf Club, following an existing informal track in front of housing at Waiōtahe Drifts and Appleton Road.

Continuing west, the trail will sit between State Highway 2 and the beach – parts of it will be under the pohutukawas. It then follows the edge of Waiōtahe estuary to the SH2 bridge over the Waiōtahe River. It will follow Ōhiwa Beach Road and link to Ōhiwa Harbour Road via a 1km long, purpose-built trail from Bryans Beach to the campground. Users of the trail – cyclists, runners and walkers of all ages – will be able to safely enjoy some of the best coastline in the country. It's a place of wide sandy beaches, gnarly old pohutukawa, and open marshland— all awash in our blessed sunshine!

Later stages of the project will:

- Develop the existing 5km trail around Ōhiwa Harbour from the campground to the boat ramp; and
- Link Huntress Creek to Ōpōtiki and the Dunes Trail.

## Whakaumu Trail

Whakaumu Trail dates back to the military occupation of Ōpōtiki in the 1860s. The trail has remained remarkably well-formed but was very overgrown — until a team of enthusiastic locals set about getting it back into shape. From the top of Taheke Road (formerly Block Access Road) the trail heads northwest through lush native forest and after about 10km emerges at the top of Tirohanga Road. An easement is being negotiated over a short section of private land. When complete, the trail will provide cyclists, walkers and runners with a 35km loop from Ōpōtiki, including the Dunes Trail. It will also help open up an alternative route to Ōpōtiki from the Pakihi Valley.



*Enjoying a rest on the beautiful Mōtū Trails dunes trail*

## Where are we at now?

### **Waiōtahe & Ōhiwa Trail**

- A secure route has been selected over publicly owned land
- Approval has been obtained from other land owner agencies
- Ecological and archaeological assessments have confirmed that the trail will have no significant effects on these values
- Consultation with Iwi has addressed cultural concerns
- An engineering assessment has confirmed that a number of structural components of the trail – for example bridges and boardwalks—are feasible
- Resource consent applications are in preparation and are expected to be lodged in November.

### **Whakaumu Trail**

- Tangata Whenua blessed the project in early 2015 and christened it Whakaumu Trail after a prominent peak near the start of the trail
- A massive effort by volunteers has seen 6km of the trail reinstated, including creek crossings and culverts
- Funding and material support has been received from Trail Fund NZ, Ground Effect Slush Fund, Fonterra Grass Roots Fund, OPAC, Waiotahi Contractors, and a number of individuals across the district.

