

## **An Outram community project in the making**

A rolling stone gathers no moss, and thanks to Taieri Lions, Taieri Rotary, Taieri Historic Park and members of Outram's community the development of a new loop pathway is motoring ahead. Here's an update on what is happening.

### **Development team vision: Taieri Historic Park Loop Track**

As you may be aware a committee has been formed involving Taieri Lions, Taieri Rotary club members, Taieri Historic Park members and members of our community. The purpose is to build a safe shared walking/cycling track up to the Historic Park. A very successful House and Garden tour organized by Taieri Rotary and Taieri Lions kicked off fundraising for this project.



The committee split the project into two parts.

Stage 1: up the hill to park, through park then down to George King Memorial Drive bridge. Stage 2 - returns via creek, back under bridge on S/H 87 to Outram. Stage 1 is well advanced and ready for the finishing layer of aggregate. To date this has been fully funded by Taieri Rotary and Taieri Lions Clubs.

Stage 2: we have secured additional funding from Community Trust of Otago, Dunedin Casino Trust and Alexander McMillan Trust. Along with ongoing funding from Lions and Rotary.

It is envisaged Stage 1 Track should be open late summer, and by the time you read this work should be underway on stage 2. Fundraising is ongoing by the track committee and Taieri Lions and Rotary Clubs.

Many thanks to both clubs for the financial support and our track committee for their ongoing efforts at working bees, meetings and planning. The committee is grateful for the labour and materials donated by various business and individuals in our community. The ongoing co-operation and support of the four landowners, including the Dunedin City Council is also appreciated.

It is the feeling of many in our community that this track will become an asset for our local community also encouraging others to visit our town and walk the loop track while also visiting our superb Historic Park.

Graeme Robertson (Chairman)

Carol- Anne Buchanan (Secretary)

Dean McAlwee (Joint Project Manager)

## Greater access to the past at the Taieri Historic Park



The Society is very pleased with progress of the pathway project enhancing access for cyclists and pedestrians to the Taieri Historic Park. Residents might have noticed digger activity below the Outram town reservoir. This is part of the Stage 1 of the development creating access up to the Taieri Heritage park from Mountfort Street.

The second project, Stage 2, will see the formation of a loop giving access to the Outram Glen, Traquair Burn Valley and surrounding area before linking back to the pathway on land managed by the Taieri Historical Society.

The Society has leased the area from the Dunedin City Council since 1974 when the Historic Park was developed through the relocation of several at risk heritage buildings, some of which house museum exhibits.

Formation of the shared pathway will make it easier and safer for residents to access the Park either on foot or bicycle. The gradient of the hill is 2.5 - 5 degrees and travellers will avoid the traffic of the Highway 87 making it a more pleasurable experience.

The shared pathway will run through a proposed landscaped area of the park that includes the West Taieri end of the Old Dunstan Trail where miners and early settlers started their journey to Central Otago. Taieri Landscape designer, Neville Struthers, will guide the transformation of a currently unused section of the park into an area of interest that will feature a lawn space and memorial trees. Another attraction at the Heritage Park is the Otago Vintage Machinery Club display of old and sometimes rare machinery items.

Credit for the hard work and funding goes to Taieri Lions, Rotary Club of Taieri, Taieri Community Board, adjoining landowners, generous donation of goods and services from local companies plus a huge input from volunteers.

When the projects are complete, they will be a great asset and widely used by the West Taieri Community and visitors alike.

Neil Gamble

President

Taieri Historical Society