



## HANMER SPRINGS MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

### TRAIL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

For over a decade now the Hanmer Springs Mountain bike club has worked hard to help develop the fantastic trail network we have today. As the voice of all the hundreds of thousands of trail users, we would like to thank the land owners Ngai Tahu and the forest lease-holders Rayonier for their generous assistance in making this network become a reality.

We would also like to thank the Hurunui District Council, the Department of Conservation, the Hanmer Springs Community board, the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa, the Gardening team and all those other members of the **Track Network Group** for generously donating their time, money and expertise to help us reach where we are today.

The result has been an extremely successful network of trails which:

- is used by all levels of ability
- provides healthy, fun recreation for locals and visitors alike
- has virtually no environmental impact
- brings visitors to Hanmer Springs

Furthermore, the Hanmer Forest Park network is seen as a true mountain biking destination drawing more people to Hanmer Springs from Canterbury and further afield. This provides numerous positive benefits for the community as more people stay and use the Hanmer Springs businesses.

### Looking back

The past 10 years has seen the Club add many new trails and re-instated other trails in logged areas with many hundreds of hours of volunteer time and hard labour!

A new trail grade area has been built near the trail start area by the DoC House. Bike wash & bike maintenance facilities have been installed thanks to the generosity of Hanmer 4 Square.

We currently have approximately 37 single trails covering approximately 40 km distance (ref Trailforks).

### Looking forward

Research of major MTB areas overseas (Whister Canada; 7 Stanes Scotland; Coed y Brenin Wales; Blue Derby Tasmania; shows that successful areas have on average 90 – 150 kms of trails at different grades. Nelson has 247 km of trails!

Hanmer Forest Park and adjacent areas have the potential to develop this many trails in the future. The HSMTB Club proposes to extend the network from 40 km to 90 km of mixed grade trails

With this document we present a clear outline vision for the future of the network in Hanmer Springs. The key objectives for the next ten years are outlined below.

While we present ideas for the future, we also acknowledge that this is a working forest and that Rayoniers's plans for logging will significantly affect the priorities for developments and the order they may be implemented in.

## General principles for trail building

1. Build sustainable trails that will last.
2. For every climb built, aim to have at least 3 downhill trails coming off the climb, at different grades where possible.
3. Maintain a balance between trails of different grades in terms of ride time and/or distance covered.
4. Develop links with new areas to increase the overall trail km of the Hanmer Forest Park
5. Build a mix of hand built and contractor-built trails
6. Source funding for the cost of contractor trails
7. Costs may be met by the club through charity grants or incorporated into the gardeners' programme.
8. Support the idea of a **Funding Co-ordinator** as outlined in the TNG strategy study.
9. Seek permission from Rayonier and DoC to use a trail building digger on their land. Investigate purchasing one if positive response. This will speed up the build time for many new trails.
10. Trails will need to go through the normal process/requirements as laid out by the land owners/leaseholders
11. Maintenance requirements will need to be established for trail suggestions
12. Support the TNG's project to employ a **Trail Manager** for the area.

## Specific Projects to deliver above vision:

2020 – 2022

### Project A - already agreed by TNG – in progress

**-Objective-** Develop a new Advanced trail through a combination of Plantation and DOC land (Native/wilding Firs) Approx 2 Km.

**-Rationale-** This trail would extend up above the Yankee Zephyr trail and offer truly stunning views of the Hanmer basin. The Advanced trails in the network are the core of what our membership enjoy, they attract the most commentary on social media sites and you tube has numerous posts. Unfortunately, the advanced trails collectively add up to only 6 km in distance. This trail would be a low impact handcrafted gem and the bulk of the trail would never be subjected to logging cycles.

**-Location-** See map

**-Project coordinator-** Steve Pearson

**-Construction-** Volunteers from the club. Hand built

**-Funding-** Self funded

**-Timeframe-** Within 2 years.

**-Maintenance-** Large tracts of this trail would be under permanent established forest, reducing maintenance time. Approximately 20 hours per annum, vegetation clearing and surface works.

### **Project B – already agreed by TNG – in progress**

**-Objective-** Establish an Expert grade Adventure ride.

**-Rationale-** Virtually all top riding destinations offer an iconic high level trail ride. Currently our expert level trail experience is two very short trails. By utilising an old possum trappers' line which extends from above Detox trail to high onto the ridge above Jollies Pass, an expert line could be established with work required primarily at the start and finish. The trail would use the Jollies Pass Road uphill to access the trail. The trail would exit onto Detox trail in the current network. Potentially this trail could be the iconic pinnacle to the Hanmer riding experience and the vast chunk of the trail would never be logged.

**-Location-** See map

**-Project coordinator-** Mike Lawrence

**-Construction-** Volunteers from the club.

**-Funding-** Self funded through grants.

**-Timeframe-** Within five years.

**-Maintenance-** The bulk of the trail would require infrequent maintenance. Approx 15 hours per annum.

### **Project C – proposed new project – needs permission**

**-Objective-** Develop a new Easy grade trail in the area recently logged on the north side of Jollies Pass Road. Approx 3 km of gently undulating trail with occasional easy features to practice on. Entry points at all 4 corners of the area.

**-Rationale-** The easy trails in the network are very popular with families and beginners. These trails are a key stepping stone for those looking to advance their riding to higher levels. Currently the easy trails offer just two loops in the Heritage Forest.

**-Location-** See map

**-Project coordinator-** Wendy Davis/Gardeners

**-Construction-** Contractors for digger work. Volunteers from the club.

**-Funding-** Self funded through grants and through funding coordinator identified in strategy document.

**-Timeframe-** Start soon following logging of area and replanting.

**-Maintenance-** The trail would require maintenance over the first few years until canopy created approximately 15 hours per annum, vegetation clearing and surface works.

## **2023 - 2025**

### **Project D – already discussed by TNG**

**-Objective-** Investigate & collaborate with TNG to develop an easy grade ascent up to Jacks Pass in the Chatterton Valley for all user groups. Maximum gradient of 4 degrees

**-Rationale-** Clarence Valley Road is now dangerous for MTB riders and other users due to the number of vehicles on the road. An alternative, easy gradient ride connection between the Village and the St James Conservation Estate is required.

**-Location-** See map

**-Project coordinator-** TNG

**-Construction-** Experienced Contractors for construction so the gradient and surface is suitable for Intermediate MTB riders, walkers and horses

**-Funding-** TNG

**-Timeframe-** As soon as possible

**-Maintenance-** ?

**New trail suggestions in areas identified on the Trail suggestions map.**

1. **CV Express** – INTERMEDIATE CLIMB 3KM. Links Flax Gully, Tank, Pawson Road and keeps bikes off the road. Logging dates need to be established. (Also reinstate Tank trail in this area)
2. **Helter Skelter** – INTERMEDIATE DOWNHILL 5KM. Uses existing Jollies Pass climb and descends to the east. Exits near Larches Car park or Dog Stream Bridge. More Intermediate needed.
3. **Eenie Meenie Extension** – INTERMEDIATE UPHILL & DOWNHILL 3KM. Provides an Intermediate trail alternative to Red Rock & carries on the “Eenie Meenie” theme of ‘choices’. Links back to Red Rock.
4. **High Road** – ADVANCED TRAVERSE 1.5KM. Creates a high level link to Yankee Zephyr and to downhill section of Tombstone. A third downhill trail from Jollies Pass climb.
5. **Spurs** - ADVANCED CLIMB & DOWNHILL 4KM. Utilises Big Foot Climb to start. Crosses the face east and Spur Trail. Links to bottom of Addiction & Detox. Mainly in native forest.  
**Intermediate trail in the same area from top of Dettox Climb** – utilising the native forest in the basin south of Mt Isobel.
6. **Tombstone Climb** – ADVANCED DOWNHILLS x 3 from the climb. Mainly in native forest
7. **(Not shown on map) Round Isobel** – INTERMEDIATE 2 WAY TRAVERSE FROM JACKS TO JOLLIES PASS 20KM. High level long trail on DoC land for longevity.

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT IDEAS IF THE TNG EMPLOYS A TRAIL MANAGER FOR THE AREA**

This would allow many more trail ideas to be considered as the Club would not have the pressure for doing all the work on its own limited resources.

1. We could consider advocating for a wider area of coverage than just the area between Jacks & Jollies Passes. There are possibilities for longer ‘Journey rides’ on private land as well as DoC & other public lands. Some possible examples:
  - 60+ km loop trail with a Hut half-way. Hanmer – Hossack – Hossack Pass – Clarence Valley – Jollies Pass – Hanmer
  - Linking My Lyford – Hanmer via Lottery Valley & Hossack
  - Linking Hanmer to Waiau – via Dog Hill to Sherwood Lodge or via One Tree Hill and Hossack Downs Road
  - Loop trail from Medway Road over Leslie Pass and back long the Waiau river left & Ferry Bridge
  - Developing the Dillon – Rogerson River- Ben Voirlich face – ridge to Table-top area
  - Island Saddle – Tarndale – Acheron loop
  - Developing a trail park in the Jollies Pass area – particularly in the Pine Forest growing there.
2. Developing the idea of Hanmer as a ‘Trail Town’
3. Negotiating with Rayonier to ‘protect’ trails when they log an area, to help with re-instatement
4. Make more use of Trailforks website as a marketing/information tool for the trails.
5. Partnering with other groups to develop different types of trails (eg Downhill, Jump Park)
6. Develop a network suitable for National/International Events to be held

## HSMTB 10 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

**GOAL:** Extend the network from 40 km to 90 km of mixed grade trails maintaining a balance between trails of different grades in terms of ride time and/or distance covered. **TOTAL KMs = approx. 50**

### 2020 – 2022

#### **Project A - already agreed by TNG – in progress**

Develop a new Advanced trail through a combination of Plantation and DOC land (Native/wilding Firs) Approx 2 Km. *Leader: Steve Pearson*

#### **Project B - already agreed by TNG – in progress**

Develop a new Advanced trail through a combination of Plantation and DOC land (Native/wilding Firs) Approx 2 Km. *Leader: Mike Lawrence*

#### **Project C – new project – needs permission**

Develop a new Easy grade trail in the area recently logged on the north side of Jollies Pass Road. Approx 3 km of gently undulating trail with occasional easy features to practice on. Entry points at all 4 corners of the area. *Leader: Wendy Davis*

### 2023 - 2025

#### **Project D – already discussed by TNG**

Support & collaborate with TNG to develop an easy grade ascent up to Jacks Pass in the Chatterton Valley for all user groups. Maximum gradient of 4 degrees. *Leader: TNG*

### 2025 - 2030

#### **Project E - already agreed by TNG**

Develop a new Intermediate grade trail on “Hank Hill”. Approx 4 km downhill with an Intermediate climb from Forest Trust Camp area to follow. *Leader: TBD*

#### **New trail suggestions in areas identified on the Trail suggestions map.**

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2. **Helter Skelter** – INTERMEDIATE DOWNHILL 5KM. Uses existing Jollies Pass climb and descends to the east. Exits near Larches Car park or Dog Stream Bridge. More Intermediate needed.
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**Attached Map – New Trail Suggestions 1-6**