



Kia ora and welcome to the 2026 Spring edition of the Fiordland Trails Trust newsletter.

Here we look to update you on recent developments, construction progress, events and other interesting tidbits to do with our growing network of multi-use trails in the Te Anau Basin, Fiordland.

A huge thank you to our wonderful community, supporters, volunteers, sponsors and funders for all you have done and continue to do to make our trails exceptional.

**fiordland
trails** trust

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

Update from the Chair: Milestones a plenty

This past while has been extremely busy for our team at FTT with a raft of activities which means we can soon commit to starting all of the trail construction that we currently have consented, including the completion of the Lake2Lake trail and progressing the Te Anau Downs trail to Boundary Creek.

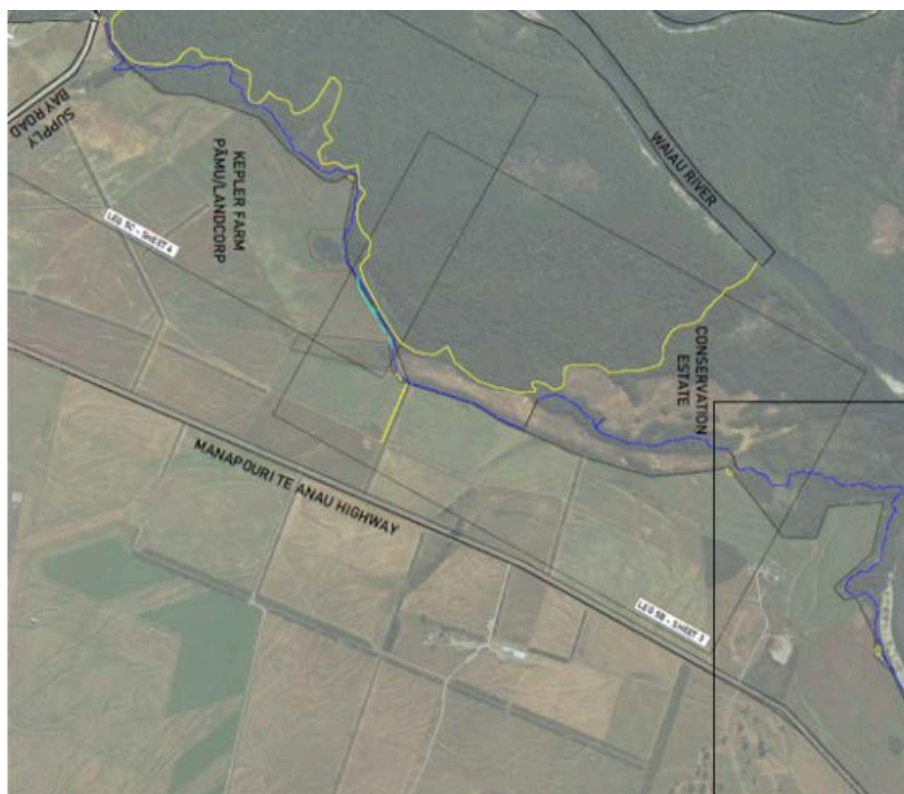
Over the past few months we have completed documentation and called tenders for both of these projects and we are thrilled to announce that we have:

1) Let a contract to local contractor Te Anau Earthworks for the off roading of Leg 5 of the Lake2Lake Trail and as such, the completion of Lake2Lake Trail from Te Anau to Manapouri.

This leg is the 5.4km section from Balloon Loop Road to Supply Bay Road that will pass partially through PAMU's Kepler Farm and to the east of the spur of Fiordland National Park.

The BLUE line is the trail route, the yellow line is the Fiordland National Park boundary.

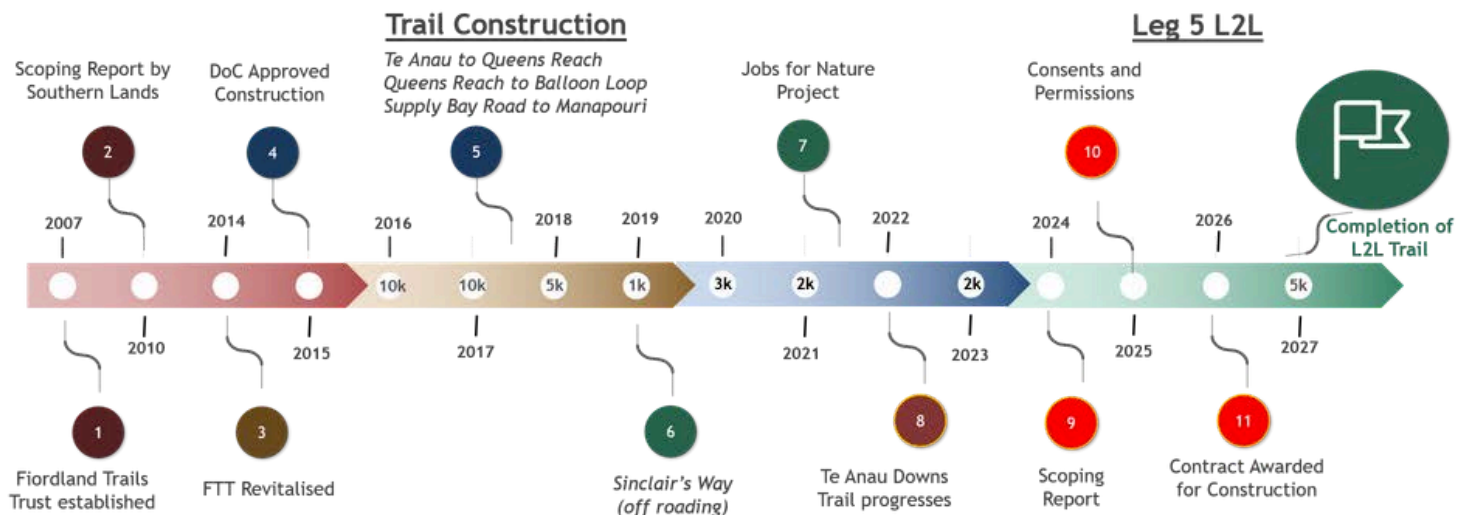
Achieving this milestone has been an amazing effort by our team as the timeline attests but the timeline only tells a small part of the story.



Some interesting background includes:

- In 2014 a revitalised Trails Trust set out to fund and construct a 30km off-road trail from Te Anau to Manapouri. The route was as recommended by a previously completed Scoping Report.
- From 2015 to 2018, FTT raised sufficient funds and built all but Leg 5 for around \$50,000/km. Life was more straightforward; essentially we only required a DoC Community Agreement and consenting was relatively simple. 90% of our fundraising was spent on construction.

Lake2Lake Trail Development Timeline



- We expected that, by 2018, the Fiordland National Park plan review would be completed, and that may enable us to complete to our preferred route for Leg 5 through a 3.5km section of the national park adjacent to, and to the east of the Waiau River. A route had been planned along a ridge and clear of wetlands and Kepler Farm.
- The Fiordland National Park plan review has not yet been completed. A 2023 trail user survey indicated many of our users were concerned around safety when riding along SH95 and this prompted the Trust to reconsider an alternative route as proffered in the original scoping report.
- Assisted by local DoC personnel, the QE2 Trust and PAMU, this route has been refined and we have now progressed a construction contract with the alignment as indicated in the map on page 1. All consents and permissions are in place and we have funds available to be able to commence construction.
- The nett result now being that we plan;
- Lizard surveillance commences in early October and onsite construction will commence later in the month. We are planning for this Leg 5 to be available for public use post Winter 2027.
- This becomes our most expensive trail leg to date with all up costs exceeding \$110,000 per kilometre.
- This will be an amazing leg to ride or walk, with spectacular river and mountain views, unique wetland board walk crossings on imaginative cost effective structures, stunning lowland beech forest and farmlands. This will be another highlight for those who get out there and enjoy the FTT trail network experience.

2) Advised Contractor Carran Scott Ltd that we will enter into a contract with them to complete Leg 3 of the Te Anau to Te Anau Downs Trail to Boundary Creek once we have sufficient funds to complete Section 1 to Ciaffoni's Landing and once they have completed the section from Sinclair's Road to Landing 2.

This remaining 8.8km, Leg 3, will be completed in five stages as funds are available and may take up to three years plus to complete.

- Landing 2 to Ciaffoni Landing – 1.6km
- Ciaffoni Landing to Eweburn – 2.8km
- Eweburn Bridge, a 15 m span structure
- Eweburn to Haylee's Landing – 2.6km
- Haylee's Landing to Boundary Creek – 1.8km

There is significant funding yet to be raised for this contract and our Funding Committee are working hard to align our income with this programme.



You, our supporters are cordially invited to attend our upcoming Annual General Meeting; it's on Thursday 8 October, 5.30pm at the Te Anau Club (Pop Andrew Drive, Te Anau). Please join us to celebrate our many achievement of this past year and ask questions as you may.

Fundamentally our Trust is in place to develop a trail network for the benefit of the Fiordland community. Recent notable achievements apart from the above include;

- The completion and opening to the public of the 2km section from Patience Bay to Sinclair Road
- An amazing fundraising effort thanks to so many local and community funders that enables us to complete Lake2Lake trail.
- A wonderfully supported Meridian Half Marathon, Mitre 10 Te Anau 10km and GWD Kids 2km held on 8 August with over 750 participants.

The continuing support of our trail users, local and community funders, local DoC staff, our volunteers and so many more has enabled us to provide what we have and get closer to our dream network.

Please get out there, use it and enjoy it. That is what makes our efforts so worthwhile.

David Boniface, Fiordland Trails Trust

We had an excellent turnout for our maintenance workshop in July, and it was wonderful to welcome several new faces to our teams.

As our trail network continues to grow, we have officially split our maintenance operations into two dedicated crews. The North team will take care of the section between the Control Gates and Boundary Creek, and the South team between the Control Gates and Manapouri.

During the workshop, we spent our time developing an annual maintenance plan, reinforcing good maintenance practices and inspection regimes, allocating specific resources to our North and South crews, completing Health & Safety inductions and updates and reviewing our official maintenance manual.

A massive thank you to all of our new and returning volunteers. We appreciate your hard work and look forward to seeing you out on the trails!

Running for a great cause:
The Meridian Hydro Half Marathon, Mitre 10 Te Anau 10km and GWD Kids Fun Run

Our 2026 event was another fantastic event with over 350 entries for both the Meridian Hydro Half and Mitre 10 Te Anau 10km races and a huge field for the GWD Kids 2km fun run. The weather was ideal, making for perfect race day conditions.

Of those, 186 participants opted to maintain or donate a tree for the trail network.

10km	346
21km	369
2km kids fun run	78



Meridian Hydro Half: Winners
Male – Hunter Gough (1:16:45)
Female – Margie Campbell (1:25:34)
First Local Home – Dwight Grieve (1:24:22)

Mitre 10 Te Anau 10km: Winners
Male – Lewis Blay (37:08)
Female – Claire Bell (45:33)

A massive thank you to our naming sponsors, Meridian Energy Limited, Mitre 10 Te Anau and GWD Motor Group, and our race day sponsors, That’s It, BeeFast Nutrition, Outside Sports, Bike Fiordland, Distinction Hotel and our local restaurants, bars, cafes and accommodation providers.

[Click here](#) for the 2026 results. 2027 entries will be opening soon – be sure to watch our website and socials.

Fundraising update

We are getting there folks but there is still some way to go yet – the more support we can muster the better.

We are applying for grants to a number of organisations and are confident of success with these.

The thermometer indicates where we are in respect to our original funding target. However, the reality is that, following the recent round of tenders, we now need to raise \$300k per year over the next three years to complete our currently consented work.

We are confident we can do this with the community’s support. Watch this space for a programme of exciting events and fundraisers!

The following indicates the different categories that make up our fundraising to date:

Local individuals and families	\$6,323.01
Families & Trusts	\$211,500.00
Local groups (Te Anau Lions, Lakeside Church/Grace Place, Zumba Ladies Walk Group, Te Anau Women’s Club)	\$12,216.00
Funding secured	\$220,845.00



\$790,000

Goal

\$450,884

Raised



**FIORDLAND TRAILS TRUST
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**



THURS OCT 8 2026 | 5:30PM

TE ANAU CLUB – POP ANDREW DRIVE, TE ANAU

Please join us to celebrate our successes and learn about our plans going forward, ask questions and take suggestions.

Anybody out there who would like to join our growing team of volunteers – would you be keen to become a Trustee? If you have technical and professional skills would especially like to hear from you.

MORE INFORMATION:

Email: admin@fiordlandtrails.nz