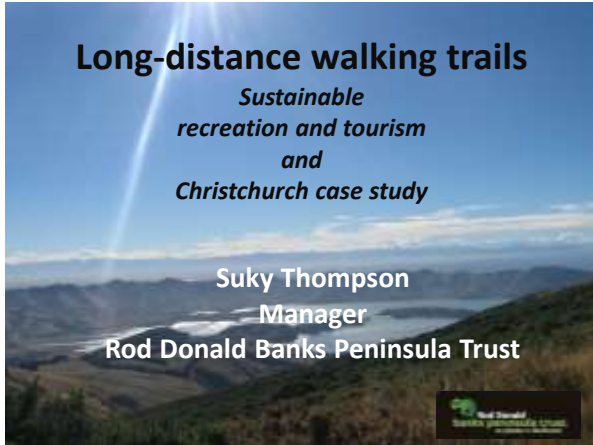
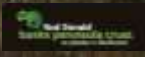


# Long-distance walking trails

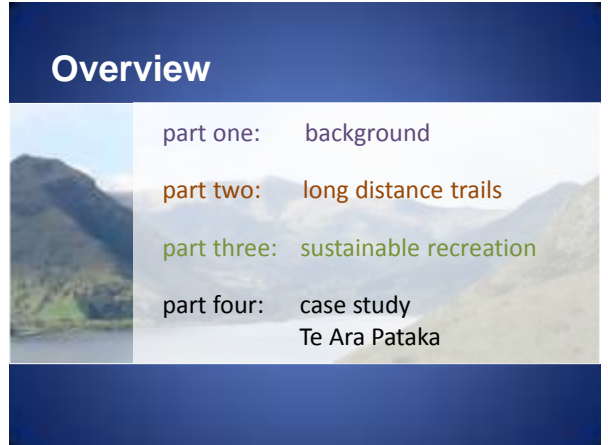
*Sustainable recreation and tourism and Christchurch case study*

Suky Thompson  
Manager  
Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust


## Overview

- part one: background
- part two: long distance trails
- part three: sustainable recreation
- part four: case study  
Te Ara Pataka




## Part 1: Background

**Peninsula Projects**  
Project Management  
Data Analysis  
Public Consultation









Combining passion for Banks Peninsula and long distance walking



## Rod Donald Trust goals

- Established 2010
- 4 pillars result of stocktake
  - Access
  - Biodiversity
  - Knowledge
  - Partnership
- Leadership role in walking



Initial Evaluation of existing environments and recreational facilities on Banks Peninsula

January 2011

Report 001

Prepared by: Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust  
Project Manager: Suky Thompson



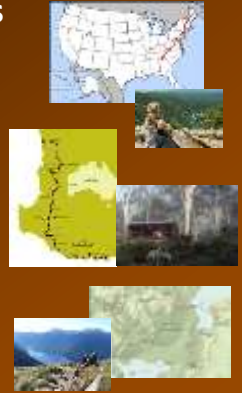
## Part 2: Long Distance Trails

- Different types of multi-day routes
- Relationship to recreation and tourism
- Forces driving their creation and popularity



## Wilderness routes

- Carry own gear
- Camp or huts
- Away from civilisation
- Appalachian Trail
- Bibbulmun track
- DOC Great Walks



## Tourism Trails

- Pass through civilisation linking communities
- Tourism services
- Range of accommodation including private serviced
- Wales coastal path
- Central Otago Rail Trail
- Queen Charlotte Track



## Trails in developing countries



## Cycle and rail trails



## Demand for long distance trails

- Response to urbanisation
- Slow Tourism
- Journey becomes the destination

*speed has assumed greater importance than in the whole of human history*

*Against the high environmental impact of the aeroplane and car, a range of s/low carbon modalities figure as alternatives that value nature and cultural traditions.*

Fullagar, Markwell, Wilson, *Slow Tourism experiences and modalities* 2012

## Supply side

*"the idea was developed out of a desire to build on the economic success of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail and the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path – both of which are **major contributors to the economy** of Wales. While the Coast Path is important for the Welsh economy it is also seen as an important initiative in encouraging **both locals and visitors** to discover and **enjoy Wales's outdoor spaces** and the **health and welfare benefits** in can provide."* [www.walescoastpath.gov.uk](http://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk)



## Who is involved in development

Community initiated

- Volunteers
- Ngos



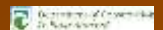
Landowners

- Public
- Private



Government support

- Local authorities
- Regional authorities
- Park authorities



Funders

- Government
- Charitable funds



## Part 3: Sustainable recreation

- Define sustainability
- Examine impact of long distance trails
- Planning sustainable trails



## Defining Sustainability

*"economically viable, but does not destroy the resources on which the future of tourism will depend, notably the physical environment and the social fabric of the host community"* (Swarbrooke in McAreavey, 2011 p176)

Intergenerational equity

## Triple bottom line



Economic



Socio-cultural



Environmental



## Economic community benefits

Track	Users	Total
C2C Cycle England	15,000	£1.5 million direct
Queen Charlotte Walking New Zealand	65,000	\$5.1 million direct \$7.5 million in Picton/Sounds area
Virginia Creeper Rail Trail US	154,000	\$1.6 million

(Bowker et al., 2007; Butchers Partners Ltd, 2005; Cope et al., 1998)

*"longer trip types, and larger groups, are the key to generating higher expenditures."* (Downward+ Lumsdon 2009)



## Financial sustainability of trail

- Walking /cycling is free
- Trails require ongoing maintenance
  - Often in remote locations
- Private revenue rarely contributes to costs
- Governed by charitable trusts
  - Voluntary maintenance
  - Grants



## Socio-cultural community benefits

- Connecting communities
- Marketing vessel
- Create jobs
- Community pride
- Social renewal



## Socio-cultural Future environmental stewards

Dunlap and Heffernan

- Defined appreciative recreation 1975
- Positive link between appreciative recreation and environmental values

Richard Louv

- *Children and Nature Deficit Disorder*
- Concern that children and youth are not getting enough contact with nature

Louise Chalwa

- *Learning to love the natural world enough to protect it*
- Outdoor experience combined with understanding

Recreation Research Otago

- Graduated range of activities
- Front country - minimise travel times
- Intergenerational



## Socio-cultural Future environmental stewards



- Unique feature of multi-day trails
- *Huts capture hearts!*



## Environmental issues along trail

- Human waste
  - Issue on wilderness trails
  - Often helicoptered out
  - Milford track 25,000l per annum
- Erosion
  - Sensitive alpine areas
  - Tracks become drainage paths



## Environment – climate change

- Assumption that cycling and walking eco friendly
- Economic benefits fossil fuel based
- Luggage and transport shuttles
- Air travel



## Planning sustainable trails

### Type of trail

- What are the goals
- Wilderness or Tourism

### Long distance

- Many stakeholders
- Different views and interests
- Build on existing strengths and assets
- Get all stakeholders on board

### Environmental impact

- Minimise travel with circular routes
- Return on public transport
- Domestic market
- Appropriate facilities

### Long term governance

- Management
- Asset ownership
- Funding and maintenance

## part four: Christchurch case study



planning a sustainable trail on nearby Banks Peninsula

### World class topography



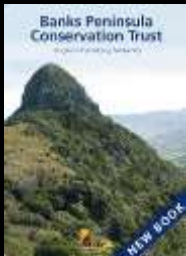
- Views
- Beaches
- Bush
- Long high ridges



### Attractive small communities



### Landowners protecting biodiversity



### Network of unformed legal roads



## Suits Wilderness and Tourism trails

- Recreational area without park status
- Management fragmented
- No overall leadership
- Private land ownership



## Trust Trail Strategy Goals

- amenity for local residents
- connect rural communities
- attract tourists and visitors
- support rural communities
- vessel for public education
- develop resilience
- develop young people



## Guided by Christchurch City Council Open Space strategy



## Te Ara Pātaka Wilderness trail project



- Multi-day *wilderness* trail on Banks Peninsula
- Front country accessible location
- Led by Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust
- Joint project with DOC
- Plus City Council, runanga and private landowners into partnership





### Grow participation

- Aimed at local market
- Proximity to city
- Target users are Christchurch families and young people
- Offers graduated range of opportunities




### Build environmental understanding

- Interpretation to encourage enjoyment and appreciation
- Stories of indigenous biodiversity
- Behaviour in rural environment
- Peninsula communities relation with land

### Usage research

- Lincoln University summer studentship 2013-14
- Extensively used by people from Canterbury region with high repeat use
- High satisfaction levels from users on-site, but not well known off-site
- Second hut needed
- Signage inadequate



[https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/bitstream/10182/5993/1/LeaP\\_rp\\_27.pdf](https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/bitstream/10182/5993/1/LeaP_rp_27.pdf)



### Youth and Outdoor Recreation Research

- Summer scholarship 2014-15
- Hut booking system
- Develop marketing
- Install interpretation at key sites
- Transport shuttles



[https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/bitstream/10182/5993/1/LeaP\\_rp\\_27.pdf](https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/bitstream/10182/5993/1/LeaP_rp_27.pdf)



## Progress 2013 - 2017

- Rod Donald Hut opened November 2015
- Huts on booking system
- Waymarking and signage
- Key track upgrades
- Formal track opening November 2016



Rod Donald Hut  
Environment Canterbury

## Rod Donald Hut environmental features

- VIP toilet
- Greywater worm trench
- Solar lighting



Rod Donald Hut  
Environment Canterbury

## Water storage

- Rain water from roof
- Solar pumped up hill
- 23,000l storage
- 10,000l fire water



Rod Donald Hut  
Environment Canterbury

## Hut family/novice friendly

- DOC booking system
- Detailed signage



## Popular with Youth groups

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Youthtown
- Scout groups
- Families



## Rod Donald Hut usage first 18 months



Adults	1348
Kids	682
Total	2030
% kids	34%
Capacity used	47%



## Sustainability issues / work ahead

- Securing access
- Toilets along track
- Transport shuttles
- Interpretation - cultural
- Marketing - probably not!
- Long term governance and management



## discussion and questions?



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