

Media Release

The Otago Central Rail Trail Trust has introduced exciting learning opportunities by creating a 152km outdoor classroom along the trail with a recent launch of their Rail Tales website: <https://www.railtales.nz/>

"The trail is more than just a bike ride! The 152km outdoor classroom has so many learning opportunities." says Kate Wilson, Otago Central Rail Trail Trust Chairperson.

Free for schools and educators to use within schools the Rail Tales website is an integrated education resource for teachers and students to enhance the learning before, during and after the Rail Trail experience.

All lessons and activities are based to the New Zealand Curriculum and created by qualified New Zealand educators with topics that include Aotearoa NZ's History, Conservation, Health & Fitness, Social Studies, the Solar System and Geology.

Tania Murphy, Trust Manager explained, "We have thousands of visitors on the trail annually including schools. The information on the Rail Tales website will help enrich the experience for everyone. We are of course, hoping that schools right across the country will see the value in riding the trail, and that many will find a connection with the outdoors that lasts a lifetime"

Daphne Hull, Honorary Trustee, who has played a large part in the project, said that "It is exciting to be able to offer teachers, students and all those who are keen to learn more about the trail, an informative online resource."

It has been especially written as a teaching resource for teachers from primary through to NCEA Level 3."

Colleen Hurd, a Trustee and business owner along the trail says "The website will help increase the knowledge base of our staff so they can share stories with our guests who love to hear more about the area."

Tania Murphy advised that "the initial idea was introduced by Anthony Breese, of Museograph Ltd, a company contracted to design and create new interpretation along the trail. Anthony saw the website as a way of using the history and stories of the area as a teaching resource for schools. Once the Trust understood the concept and got a glimpse of the website in its early stages we were all in."

Trust Chairperson, Kate Wilson said the website "Has something in it for those wanting to know more about the area we live in and will broaden the range of users of the trail. We are delighted with the work of Anthony Breese from Museograph, who has been supported throughout the project with funding from MBIE, Pub Charities and the Trust."

For more information about the website go to: <https://www.railtales.nz/> or contact Tania Murphy, Otago Central Rail Trail Trust Manager 027 294 7080.