

# Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park



## Community Newsletter -Number Three March '99

Several milestones have been reached on Makara Peak over the last two months. Varley's Track is now rideable and the 1.4 kilometre Missing Link Track is nearing completion. The South Karori Road car park and bridge have been constructed and park signs are being posted. Over 2000 hours of volunteer work have now been put into Makara Peak.

The park is taking shape and the time is right for an opening ceremony. This will be held at the South Karori entrance at 6:30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Nothing too formal - a few speeches and some light refreshments. All welcome.

### Friends of Makara Peak

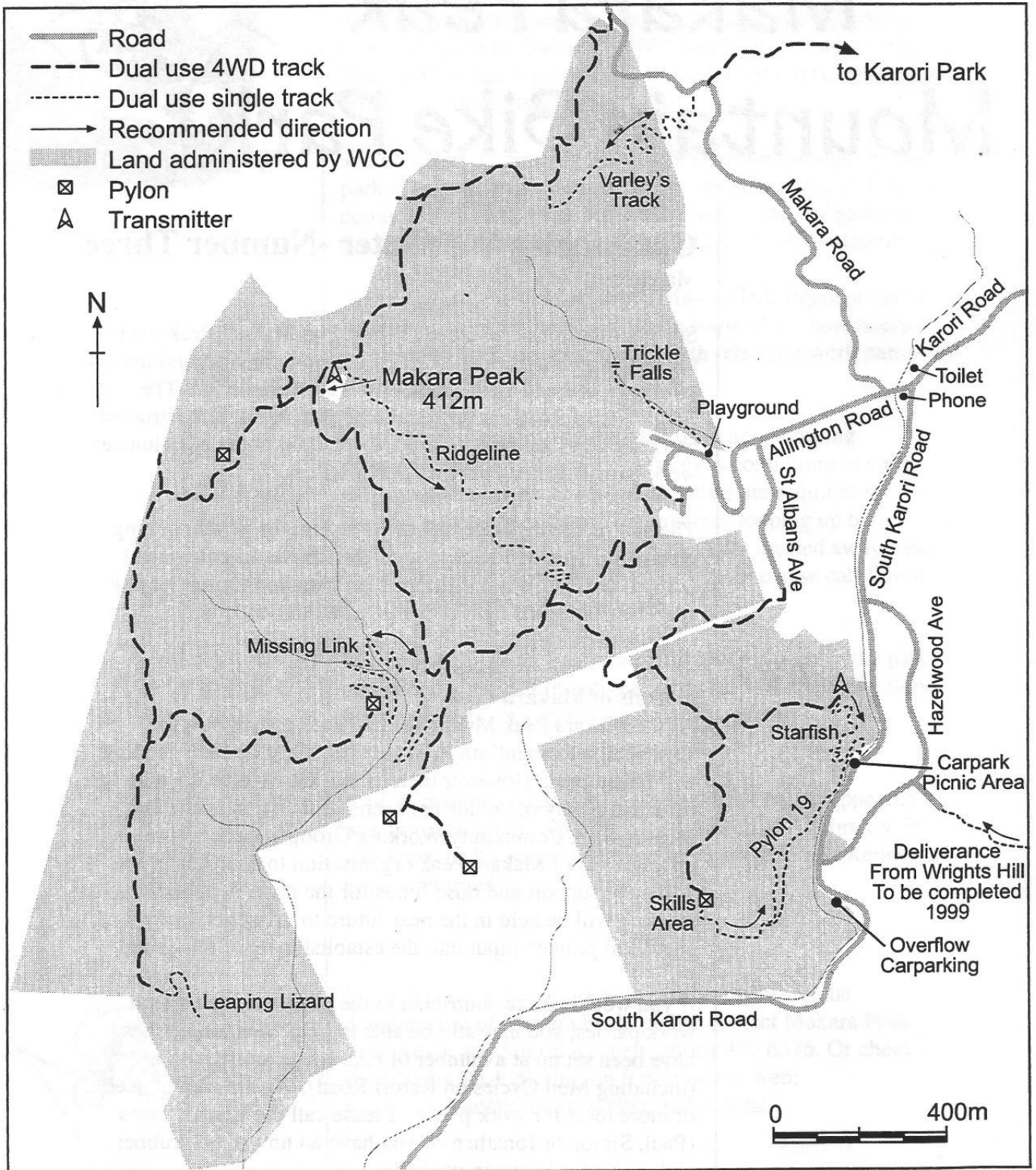
As the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park moves past the 'capital development' stage, Wellington City Council funding will be cut back. However there is still much to be done on the peak and plenty of volunteers keen to make it happen. The Makara Peak Community Working Group is currently setting up a Friends of Makara Peak organisation to coordinate volunteer support and raise funds for the park. A public meeting will be held in the near future to give everybody a chance to provide input into the establishment of this group.

If you would like to contribute to the park, but can't attend work parties, you may still be able to help. Donation boxes have been set up at a number of bike shops around town (including Mud Cycles on Karori Road). We are also in need of more tools for work parties. Please call the Kennett Bros (Paul, Simon or Jonathan) if you have an unwanted grubber, pick or sledge hammer available.

Friends of Makara Peak is also on the look-out for businesses interested in sponsoring work parties or tracks within the park. Should you know of any, please call Simon Kennett.



# Makara Peak Tracks - 20 March 1999



Friends of Makara Peak - help us look out for you  
 if you are having work parties or tracks with the  
 club. If you know of any, please call Simon Karori





### **The Track Network**

Development of tracks in the Park is proceeding well. The popular Ridgeline track is suffering some wear and tear, but the Pylon 19, Starfish and Varley's tracks are in good condition and receiving positive reviews. These tracks are almost entirely built by hand, by volunteers, to a width of one metre.

Work on the Missing Link track began in December with occasional work parties and almost daily efforts by local riders. As a result, this track is now two thirds complete despite the difficult terrain encountered.

Once Missing Link is complete, attention will be given to developing a beginners' track from the picnic area up to the skills area, and a dual use track (for pedestrians and bikers) linking the new car park and overflow car park on South Karori Road.

A team of YMCA Conservation Corps will be working on Makara Peak over the next three months. As well as weed control and tree planting, they will be clearing and upgrading an old track from the Allington Road play area to Trickle Falls. This should be ready for use by late March.

Once the new water reservoir at the top of Makara Hill Rd is complete (around June) that entrance to the park will be formalised. Varley's track should be rideable uphill (as well as down) by late March.

A machinery break-down postponed the completion of the skills area. It is now due to be completed by the 11 March. Please note that helmets are to be worn when using this facility and all tracks in the park.

### **Obituary**

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Brian Hunt. Brian was a keen member of the Missing Link design team who helped blaze the track up to The Gap. He passed away in late January.

### **Car Parking**

As noted above, the new car park at South Karori Road is now complete. This area (including the picnic area) will be planted out this winter. This car park is to be added to the Parks and Reserves locking schedule as soon as possible. It will be locked between dusk and dawn. Overflow parking is available 300m further down South Karori Road. Please observe the 'no parking', painted yellow lines along South Karori Road - or better yet, ride to the park!



### **Forest Restoration**

The tree-planting season is fast approaching and a planting schedule has been drawn up. 4000 seedlings will be planted on Makara Peak this winter, with species chosen to resist fire and provide food for native birds.

We will start by planting 100 hardy seedlings around the car park at the opening ceremony. Also, on Arbor Day (5 June) a community planting session will be held at the car park on South Karori Road between 10am and noon. All welcome.

Trees will also be planted above Makara Hill Road, at the St Albans Ave entrance and alongside some of the new tracks. The planting will be followed up with releasing work parties in spring.

Goats continue to invade the park from neighbouring properties and hunter Jon Rosemergy is continuing to keep their numbers in check. More volunteers are required for the possum control operation. This involves topping up bait stations once a month. These are typically located away from tracks, in difficult country. If you can help please call Simon Kennett on phone 499 6376.

In December, Nikau Palms were discovered deep in the park, and added to the list of native species on Makara Peak (along with rimu, rata, maire, rewarewa and pukatea).

### **Lost**

A blue, medium-sized CACTUS backpack has disappeared. It was last seen on the Missing Link track on 18<sup>th</sup> February. If you know of it's whereabouts please contact Simon Kennett or have it returned.



If you have any queries or suggestions regarding the development of Makara Peak, please contact Makara Peak Park Advocate, Simon Kennett, phone 499 6376. Or check out the Makara Peak discussion forum on the web:  
<http://www.mountainbike.co.nz/places/makarapeak/>