

THE GENTLE CYCLING COMPANY

ROUTE INFORMATION : THE GREAT TASTE TRAIL

TAPAWERA LOOP

Last updated: 25/2/2014

The Tapawera Loop is scheduled for completion in 2016/17. This route will link Wakefield and Riwaka via a longer loop. When completed, this loop will be 175 km long with an additional leg from Riwaka to Kaiteriteri of 9km. Approximately 49km of this route, down the beautiful Motueka Valley, will be on road. The best direction to ride this loop will be heading south to Wakefield, as the Motueka Valley is a very gentle downhill all the way when riding in this direction. The ride will start on the Rail Route, then link to the Coastal Route using an on-road section.

THE RAIL ROUTE

The Rail Route passes through Brightwater (16km from The Gentle Cycling Company) and ends at Wakefield (22km). It is virtually flat and the surface is either asphalt or gravel. It is all off-road apart from short sections on very quiet roads. From Wakefield the next section of trail will continue on the disused rail corridor to Belgrove, with construction planned for 2014/15. New Zealand's longest decommissioned rail tunnel, Spooner Tunnel, will provide a link through towards the Kohatu Junction. From Kohatu to Tapawera (8km) the route will also be off-road.

ON-ROAD SECTION

From Tapawera it will be a 17km on-road ride to Woodstock, the junction with the current Great Taste Trail Pigeon Valley Loop. From here the ride continues on-road, down the west bank of the Motueka Valley to Riwaka (32km). The route will rejoin the Coastal Route between Riwaka and Motueka.

THE COASTAL ROUTE

The last leg of the Tapawera Loop will take the existing Coastal Route back to Stoke through Motueka, Lower Moutere, Tasman and Mapua.