

## **November 29, 2013 : Gibbston River Trail Upgrade**

Thanks to the generosity of six Gibbston landowners and the support of the Department of Conservation and the Gibbston Community Association, the Queenstown Trails Trust is funding a partial upgrade of the Gibbston River trail so it can become part of the official Queenstown Trail. The Queenstown Trail currently finishes at the bungy bridge but after the upgrade will continue as far as the Gibbston Back Road.

CEO Mandy Kennedy says the upgrade provides the best of both worlds and thanks to 6 easements over private land the Trust can construct a maximum grade 2 trail which will be wheelchair friendly down to the Gibbston Back Road whilst protecting the stunning Wentworth and Waitiri walking Loops.

Gibbston Community Association Chairperson Trish MacKenzie says the upgrade to the trail which enables the Gibbston Trail to be incorporated into the Queenstown trail will provide greater awareness of the trail which will undoubtedly be of benefit to all businesses in Gibbston. "I will be especially pleased to see an increase in the number of cyclists able to ride the whole trail enabling them to discover all the great things that Gibbston has to offer from the Bungy to the Nevis Bluff, especially our award-winning wines. This will be great for our Community."

Gibbston Valley Station has provided a mown detour trail whilst the upgrade is being carried out. The upgrade is expected to be completed mid March.