

Meet some of the team



Lloyd Houppapa

Digger Driver - Foxton Futures

Where are you from?

Ōtaki.

How did you get involved with the project?

I was asked to join the project – I've dug manmade lakes and ski lakes before.

What were you doing before?

Working as a supervisor for Goodmans Earthmoving.

What's your hobby/sport you follow?

Rugby.

What do you like about the project?

It's good to be back here, I worked on the Whirokino Bridge project and enjoyed it.



Mitchel Caldow

Truck driver and digger driver – Foxton Futures

Where are you from?

Foxton, I went to primary school here.

How did you get involved with the project?

I work with Caldow Builders.

What were you doing before?

Working with the Horowhenua Alliance in Levin.

What's your hobby/sport you follow?

4-wheel driving and motorbikes.

What do you like about the project?

I grew up here and at school, we heard that it used to be a port but that was a long time ago. Never really thought about how big it is. It's good for the community.

Want to
know
more?

 Follow us @TeAwahouNieuweStroom on Facebook.

 Visit our project page at: <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/riverloop>

 Or email enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

This project is supported by the hapū of Te Awahou and the Save Our River Trust

Foxton Futures

Manawatū River Loop Rejuvenation

Issue 2 - October 2020

The new look of the River Loop is firming up

With a large open public space, viewing platforms and a natural playground on a small mound, the new-look River Loop Reserve is set to be a hit with families.

Horowhenua District Council Mayor Bernie Wanden said, "the concept design for the reserve is a substantial improvement. We're now working with our iwi partners on the look and feel of the reserve. It will be a great place for friends and whānau to meet, play, walk and run through and provide a beautiful location for small events."

Work on the reserve will begin in November. In the background, the team have created plans for the park and are currently working with Ngāti Raukawa representatives to finalise the design features in the reserve.

"It is a progressive project and eventually we hope to see an entrance gateway designed by a Ngāti Raukawa carver," said Mayor Wanden.

Principal Project Manager Daniel Haigh said, "we want to achieve a space that is connected to the Te Awahou Cultural Park and Paretao Gardens. There will be pathways along the length of the park connected to viewing platforms on the river's edge."

Mr Haigh said, "rows of trees will help provide shelter and help create separate areas in the reserve. And two small mounds will be created to provide viewpoints across the reserve and to the Loop."

The street will have traffic calming devices and angle parking to provide ample parking for events.

Mr Haigh said, "we're now half way through the removal of silt, and we have made a start on rebuilding the riverbank. Soon we will make a start on the reserve and street frontage."

The project is due for completion by the end of February.



The Two Stages

Stage One: Remove silt and rejuvenate the River Loop Reserve: To remove the silt alongside the River Loop Reserve, groynes have been created from which the diggers will operate. The team is extending and stabilising the riverbank and commencing in November, we'll start to rejuvenate the reserve, parking, road and pathway to Paretao Gardens.

Stage Two: The Aspiration: Further enhancements to the River Loop Reserve

include a boat ramp and boardwalk, improved connectivity to Te Awahou Cultural Park and further investment in Paretao Gardens. No funding has been secured for Stage Two, however consideration of the Paretao Gardens upgrade will occur through Council's Long Term Plan process.

A Governance Group was established to oversee this project with Save Our River Trust, Ngāti Raukawa, the Horizons Regional Council, Muaūpoko, Foxton Community Board and the Council.

Project Milestones

July: The Provincial Growth Fund announced a \$3.86M grant to make a start on the Manawātū River Loop project. The funding was provided to cover the costs for the removal of 25,000 cubic metres of silt from the Loop, rebuild the riverbank, rejuvenate the River Loop Reserve and improve Wharf Street and parking.

August: Work began on the project which is managed by the Horowhenua Alliance, a partnership between Horowhenua District Council and Downers.

September: Silt was removed from the River Loop.

October:

- Primary School visits held
- We're half way through the removal of silt
- Draft design of new park released
- Design of car parks on Harbour Street confirmed.

What is a natural play area?

It's where you have a combination of natural materials such as boulders and logs. Sections of tree trunk will be arranged around the mound in the reserve to creative wide-ranging play opportunities. There will be a slide and a shelter will be provided for whānau waiting and watching their children play.

Work ahead

October:

- Construction of the new river bank
- Talks with neighbouring residents about traffic calming methods.

November:

- Hapū engagement on the new river loop reserve
- Final reserve design completed
- Construction of the reserve begins
- Reserve land will be built up and contoured.



Learning about our river and the project

In October, students from Foxton Primary School, Coley Street School and St Mary's Primary School visited the site.

They learned about how the ancestor Hau named the Manawātū River which was formed by a taniwha. The significance of Matakara, Pirihaakeke and Paretao to Ngāti Ruakawa and saw a tuna (eel) - three children were able to

release them to the Loop.

Members of the Save Our River Trust spoke of their long term aspiration to reopen the inland entrance to the Loop to return river flow to help flush and keep the waterway clean.

One lucky student from each tour had their photo taken in one of the large diggers operating on the site.



Local employment – key aspect of the project

The Horowhenua Alliance – a partnership between Downer and Horowhenua District Council, is the main contractor and through them, they employ several subcontractors including:

- Caldw Builders Ltd – Equipment Hire
- Foxton Wildlife Trust – Ecology
- Goodman Contractors Ltd – Equipment Hire and Environmental Controls
- Alan G Gibson Ltd – Equipment Hire and Cartage
- Graeme Bagrie Contract Ltd – Equipment Hire and Cartage
- Reid's Transport Ltd – Cartage and Sand Supply
- Area Scaffold – Site Fencing Hire
- Numerous other small local suppliers including Hammer Hardware, New World and cafes in Foxton.