

Foxton Futures

Issue 4 - February 2021

Manawatū River Loop Rejuvenation

The best is yet to come

On Saturday, we will host the Manawatū River Improvement Festival / Te Oranga o te Awa to mark the widening of the River Loop.

The purpose behind the Festival is to mark the progress of projects undertaken across the river's catchment to improve the river's health and mauri.

The day will start with a dawn blessing by members of Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, followed by the unveiling of an anchor that was recovered from the Loop, and restored.

The Festival starts at 10 am with a flotilla of vessels arriving from Foxton Beach Boat Ramp and the Matarapa Boat Ramp.

Mayor Bernie Wanden said; "unfortunately, not all of the reserve will be open for the Festival."

"Our crew have done a tremendous job to date. However a combination of things means that it will take a few more months before the reserve is fully open to the public."

Mayor Wanden said the paths will be open during the Festival and everyone will get a close up look at our new community asset and see water sport exhibitions on the Loop.

The festival will take place in front of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom with events all around the Cultural Park and the Manawatū River Loop Hall. Behind the Hall will be a pontoon from which jet-ski rides will be available (fees apply).

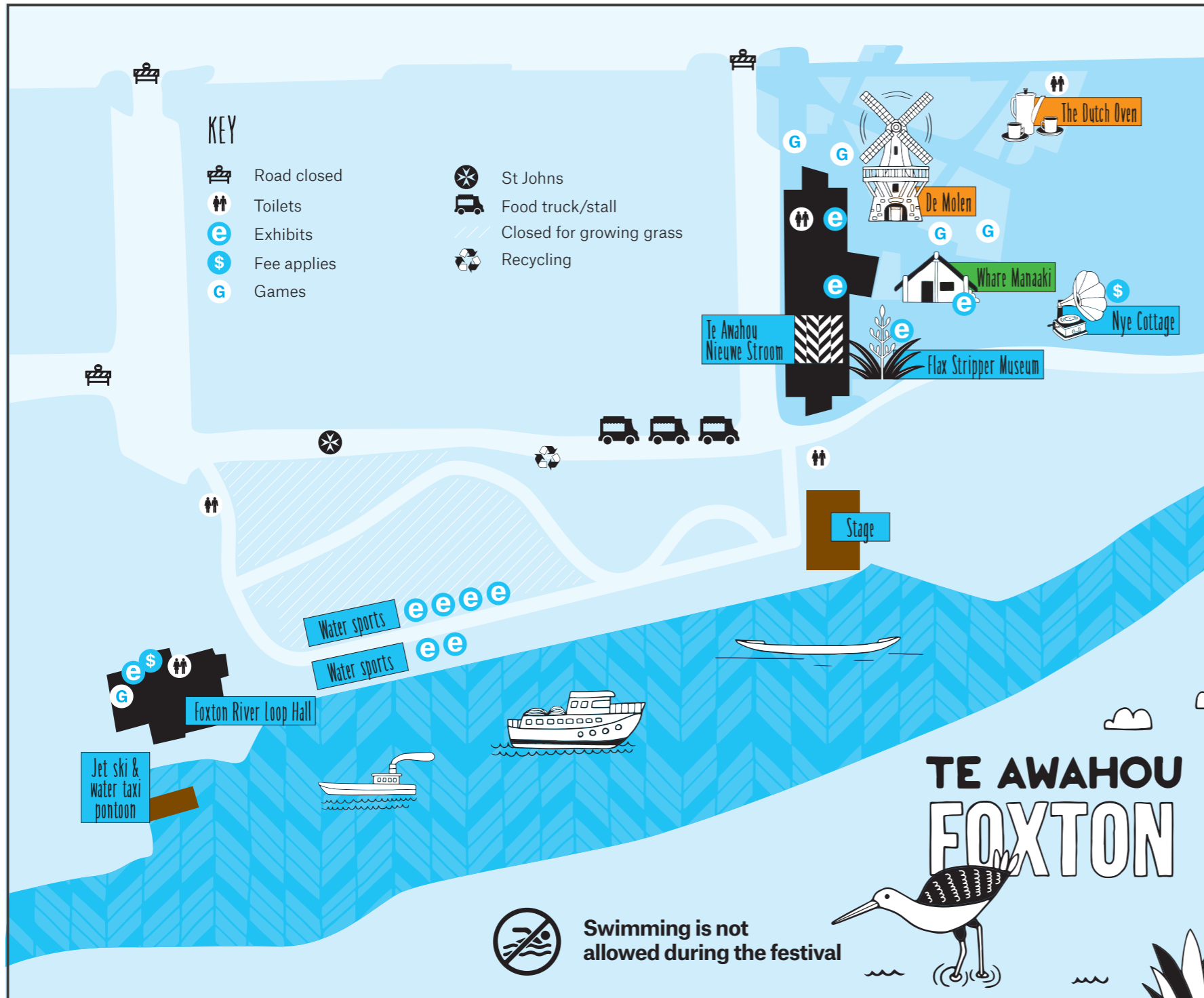
Principal Project Manager, Daniel Haigh, said since our last newsletter in December, the pathways have been built and ducting for lighting and a water

fountain installed. Our team have completed a new kerb and built carparks as well.

After the Festival, the crew will be back on site to start work on the facilities including a new playground (pictured below), BBQ areas, shelters and viewing platforms. Overhead lighting will go in, trees planted, and signage installed. The car park in front of the Manawatu River Loop Hall will be sealed, and campervans will be directed there in the future.

Please note the Festival will only be held if we are at Covid-19 Level One and if weather conditions are right – check out the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom Facebook page for details.





Manawatū River Improvement Festival - Te Oranga o te Awa

FREE EVENT 10-3pm 27 February 2021

*Programme was correct at time of publishing
Event will only proceed at Covid-19 Level One
restrictions and if weather allows.*



River Loop Reserve Reopening Programme

- 10am** Welcome for watercraft convoy
- 10:15am** Local school waiata and kapahaka
- 11am** WakeX start Jet Ski short rides \$
- 11am to 1pm** Water sport exhibition
- 11:50am** Speeches
- 12:20pm** Jerome Kavanagh
- 1pm** Chinese New Year Dragon celebration
- 1:30pm** Sparkles
- 2:10pm** Peanut Slab

All day activities 10am-4pm

- River Loop Reserve**
Food trucks and community fundraisers \$
River improvement exhibitions
- Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park**
Children's Games and dunk tank
- Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom:** Exhibitions - Albert McCarthy and Puaki - Ta Moko
- Whare Manaaki Māori Gallery and Workshop:** Carving exhibition
- De Molen Windmill:** Windmill tours \$
- Historic Nye Cottage** \$
- Foxton River Loop Hall**
Historic photo exhibition
Peter Daniels (kids attractions) \$
- MavTECH** Coronation Hall, Crn Avenue Road and Main Street.
Historic Foxton movies \$
- Join MCs** Ainslie Allen and Karanama Peita

Rowing club finds a home in the Loop

The reinvigoration of the Foxton River Loop has seen more than just native wildlife return to the waterways, as the Horowhenua Rowing Club looks to expand its base.

After shifting their base from Lake Horowhenua and then Moutua, the Club has now found a home on the River Loop. Horowhenua Rowing Club Secretary Jo Mason says that the move has opened up the opportunity to engage a whole new generation of rowers.

We moved out to Moutua Reserve a few years back. However, we had to climb down the bank with boats to get to the river, which made it tough to get kids

involved. We had no changing rooms either, so we stopped looking for school memberships.”

“We’re affiliated with the Wellington Rowing Association and through them, other clubs and school rowing including Wellington Girl’s College and Wellington College. They are bringing their kids up here - injecting new life into the sport, and also bringing money into our local economy.”

Since the extraction work finished late last year, Jo has noticed a dramatic increase in fish and birdlife.

“We’re seeing birds around the Loop now we haven’t seen in the

last 2.5 years - and I’ve even had my toe nibbled by an eel!”

Jo says rowers get to see the Loop from a different perspective and she says it’s great to see families on the bank, kids fishing, and the Reserve being used and enjoyed.

The Horowhenua Rowing Club trains every Tuesday, Thursday evening during daylight savings hours and Sunday mornings all year round.

If you are interested in Rowing contact James Watson 0276627872 (Coach) or Andrew Bealing 0211799979 (Club Captain)



**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 Te Rūnanga o Raukawa and the hapū of Te Awahou and the Save Our River Trust