

WALKWAY PROJECT

Scoping Work

A few days before lockdown, back in April 2020, a small group of Landowners drove along the Whangawehi walkway to scope and discuss the work that will be required. Thanks to the generosity of landowners, the walkway will allow the general public to walk on several farms on an easement following the fence line on the true right side of the river. The walkway is more or less already in place but the track will receive some upgrades to make it user friendly for trampers and bikers. A big thank you to the landowners and DOC who came to have a look at the project and gave some advice.

Design for Suspension Bridge

On Friday the 30th of May 2020, a specialized Civil Engineer from Abseil came to have a look at several sites where a suspension bridge will be built along the Whangawehi walkway. This suspension bridge should be built (once funding has been made available) on the Taharoa Trust and will allow trampers and bikers to access



Grandy Lake Forest without getting their feet wet!

This bridge will be a statement as it will allow trampers to walk above a beautiful corridor of native trees. The Engineer had a look at several short wooden bridges on Pongaroa station. A big thank you to the landowners for their collaboration.

Design work as of this month is not completed yet but Abseil Access sent out this photo that gives a good idea how the bridge will look.



Gathering Along Walkway

On Thursday the 4th of June 2020, Cameron Osmond (MBIE), Al Morrisson (MBIE), Mo Rongo (RIT), Malcolm Smith (DOC), Craig Little (WDC), Bevan Parker (Pongaroa Station), Arthur Bowen (WCMG) and Nic (WCMG) gathered at the Whangawehi bridge to discuss the up and coming Whangawehi Walkway. The great weather allowed the group to venture onto Taharoa Trust to have a look at a possible suspension bridge site next to the existing hut.



Walkway Planning

- Richard Smith from Logic Forest Solutions Limited came to Whangawehi to prepare the design of the layout of the Whangawehi walkway.
- Richard and his company have designed a number of tracks around the country and will provide design support to our project. Richard will work on a proposal for the group and will supply us a track specification document. This document will be used to tender the work involved with the construction of the track.
- The track will be constructed on the true right of the river and will be located mainly in the retired area to offer a variety of views and also reduce any disturbance with farming operations.

Eastern & Central Charity Trust

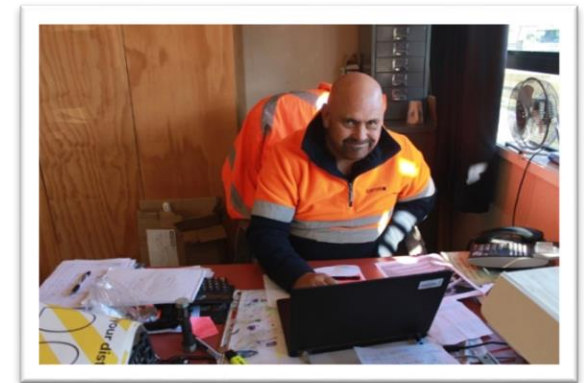
On the 28th of May 2020, Rose Artemiev, Community Advisor for Eastern and Central Charity Trust announced that the Trust has approved \$170K towards the Whangawehi walkway and agreed to fund an additional \$20K grant which will be used specifically to design small bridges as well as a suspension bridge.

A big thank you to the Trustees of ECCT for their support and investment in an infrastructure that will transform Mahia and the wider Wairoa District.

Design of Waharoa

On Friday the 9th of June, Nic met with Elroy Spark from Carters to work on a design for the Waharoa at the entrance of the Whangawehi walkway.

Professional plans are required by Wairoa District Council in order to follow proper building consent processes. The plans should be ready for consideration within 10 working days. In the meantime, affected stakeholders are being engaged to see if they are supportive of the project. The Whangawehi Catchment Management



Group would like to thank Elroy and his team at Carters Wairoa for sponsoring this community project.

MBIE Gives Go Ahead

MBIE has given the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group the thumbs up in regards to their support for the construction of the Whangawehi walkway. We are now in a position to be able to commence work. An announcement from them will be made in the next few days.

A big thank you to MBIE and the PGF team for supporting this amazing community project that will allow the wider community to enjoy the fruits of a collaborative initiative between Marae, landowners, agencies and local school.

Easement Approved

On Friday the 19th of June, Kevin Taylor our surveyor indicated that the digital survey plan, LT 547145, showing the proposed walkway easements in the Whangawehi Catchment on Mahia Peninsula were finally “approved as to survey” by Land Information NZ.

A big thank you to Kevin and his team for this very important work. The next step will consist in recording the easement against the land title of each properties. This will be done in the next few weeks.

DUNG BEETLES – NEW FARM WORKERS

In December last year a new breed of farm worker was released in Māhia - Dung beetles. These beetles are paid in dung, work 24/7, and improve farms and their environments.



The beetles were released at a community gathering on several farms as part of several collaborative initiatives

involving Dung Beetle Innovations, Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research, Whangawehi Catchment Management Group, and Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ). Further financial assistance has been provided by the Australian-based Dung Beetle Ecosystem Engineers project.

“Dung beetles are just awesome, they’re everyone’s friend. They eat poo and by processing and burying it they improve soil quality, and reduce run-off and parasite transmission. Better soil, better water, better animal health and better ecosystems, it’s a win for everyone,” says Bevan Parker, Farm Manager on Pongaroa Station.

This release is part of a bigger project looking at future proofing the farming business, and community and environments. We’re looking at sustainable farming practices, and researching different ways of working to become more sustainable – like getting these little guys on the farms working for us.

We then released a large number of beetles with the aid of the local school children at Mahia Peninsula on Tuesday 25th February 2020.



HAERE RA SOPHIE

From Pat O’Brien, Chairman - Sophie will be remembered by the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group as a tireless advocate in making our community and environment better places to live in. She gave freely of her time and was driven by passion for what she believed in making her a formidable opponent in any gathering or meeting. She was never afraid to speak up and speak her mind.



She was a woman of strong views, proud of who she was, honest in her opinions and we as a group respected the input she had into the group. She played a pivotal role in connecting people from all walks of life and working through issues in positive and meaningful ways.

Sophie spent many hours out on the whenua and at the schools working with us all, planning, planting, advising and sharing her wealth of knowledge.

She will be missed and remembered fondly as a woman of integrity and someone who walked the talk every day.

Whangawehi Catchment Group Inc

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Whangawehi Catchment Newsletter

July 2020

