

## Loop track adds value to reserve

OFFENDERS on community work sentences have successfully completed significant improvements and enhancements of a 3.5km-long walking track that loops its way around the fringes of Mt Lees Reserve near Feilding.

The walkway runs from an entry point off Ngaio Rd, near the official entrance to Mt Lees, and links with existing bush tracks in the 29-hectare reserve, noted

people like to come here for a walk through the bush, especially in summer when it's cool and refreshing."

Woodlots created by Mt Lees' former owner, Ormond Wilson, contain a wide variety of trees including Australian blackwoods, acacia, gums, redwoods and natives, as well as giant bamboo and ornamental plantings like magnolia and giant Himalayan lilies.

"The reserve contains a bit

"Everything was brought in by hand, even the metal wheel-barrow, and all the bridges were built on site," he said. "Teams of up to 10 often spent up to three days a week in the reserve in all sorts of weather."

Mr Watson said the end result was a credit to the workers and the community works supervisors, headed by Bruce Stellard, as they had provided the public



PARKS and Reserves Manager, Albert James (left), and Senior Community Work Supervisor, Barry Watson, inspect one of the bridges on the Mt Lees loop track.

for its variety of wildlife and fauna and seasonal dafodil display.

Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James, said workers had carried out a "fantastic" job in the past three-plus years, carving out the track through the bush and upgrading its accessibility. Only a few areas now needed to be metalled.

"It adds great value to the reserve," he said, "as many

of everything and is always changing," said Mr James, "an Edwardian man's garden, basically."

Department of Corrections' Senior Community Work Supervisor, Barry Watson, of the Community Probation Services' Feilding Service Centre, said it was one of the services' biggest projects with hundreds of offenders involved in the track development.

with an enormous recreational opportunity in wonderful surroundings.

"The public needs to come and have a look to get more of an idea of what has been accomplished. Everyone involved can feel very proud and we intend to invite families to walk the track and show them what's been done."



WORK is due to begin this month to install barriers on a portion of Henderson Street (pictured) on the outskirts of Kimbolton. Principal Planner, Wendy Thompson, said the decision to stop the por-

tion of Henderson Street made in 2008 by the Manawatu District Council after public consultation. Pedestrians, however, will still be able to access the road. The recommendation from coun-

cil was to support the road stopping for traffic safety reasons. Council is to advise residents in the area and the Kimbolton Community Committee of the imminent closure.

## Transport study future blueprint

A JOINT transport study on the need for integrated transport planning in the Palmerston North-Manawatu area has been described as a "blueprint for the future" by Manawatu District Council Assets Group Manager, Richard Kirby.

The study, released by the Regional Transport Committee, was commissioned by Horizons Regional Council, Palmerston North City Council, MDC and the New Zealand Transport Agency and forms part of the draft Regional Land Transport Strategy to be available for public submissions from July 7.

Mr Kirby said a lot of the study's detail and options needed to be covered off before any implementation

programme was started.

Among the study's recommendations are proposals to improve commuter links between Feilding and Palmerston North and the inter-regional route between Sanson and the Manawatu Gorge. The report also supported the need for a second Manawatu River bridge. Manawatu District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, said a real issue for the district was the "pretty significant" impact the recommendations would have on communities such as Bunnythorpe and Kairanga, as well as Longburn.

"It's hugely important for the district as we have to manage our way through the study in a circumspect manner," he said. "It will impact

on those communities and we do need to ensure that they are well informed about what is going on."

Mr McKelvie said the challenge was to keep the information flow going and make sure those people affected fully understood what was happening.

Horizons councillor Bruce Gordon said although the study provided a clear direction for the area's roading networks there was still a lot more work to be done.

"The recommendations are just that - recommendations. More detailed work will be done alongside extensive consultation with the community," he said.

## District briefs

### Road maintenance contractors thanked

MANAWATU District Council acknowledged the end of a four-year partnership with Inframax Construction Ltd during a farewell morning tea at the council this week. Inframax has largely been involved with the maintenance of the district's roading network since 2006 and council officers thanked the Te Kuiti-based company for its work over the years. Palmerston North firm, Higgins, is now the new contractor.

### "Eclipse" celebrations a blast

LOCAL teenagers are already looking forward to the Makino Aquatic Centre's next themed party after having a blast at the "Eclipse" celebration last week. Thirty-five party-goers attended the twilight movie saga look-a-like competition at the Feilding Public Library before being joined by 90 other revellers at the Makino for loud music, fog dancing and The Rocket. Amber Boerboom (dressed as Alice) was the best look-a-like character, winning a double pass to "Eclipse" from Downtown Cinemas, with Alana Doyle (Jane) the runner-up. The next MAC party is "Oh SHAME!" on Friday, August 6.

### Storytellers for holiday programme

TWO storytellers, Tanya Batt and Levity Beet, are special guests during the Feilding Public Library's week-long school holiday programme starting Monday. Batt, who has published four children's books, appears at 10.30am on Tuesday, and Beet, whose catchy ditty about the world's smallest penguin, "Little Blue", was the 2009 Children's Song of the Year, appears at 10.30am on Friday. Stories and craft activities are scheduled for the hour-long morning sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

### Intention to close road to vehicular traffic

Manawatu District Council

Under Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is given that at its meeting on Thursday, August 19, the Manawatu District Council intends to consider closing the roads below for the **Manawatu Car Club Inc.** to conduct the **Automotive Direct Daybreaker Rally 2010** on **Saturday, October 30.**

- **Special Stage 1 - Pakihikura (7.30am-12.30pm):** Sandon Block Rd Extension, Sandon Block Rd - from Sandon Block Rd Extension to Waipuru Rd, Waipuru Rd, Mangapapa Rd, Upper Pakihikura Rd, Waituna-Tapuue Rd - from Upper Pakihikura Rd to Beaconsfield Valley Rd, Beaconsfield Valley Rd - from Waituna-Tapuue Rd south to start of seal.
- **Special Stage 2 - McBeth Road (9.15am-1.30pm):** McBeth Rd - from Bryce Rd to Junction Rd North, Junction Rd North - from McBeth Rd to Rangiwahia Rd.
- **Special Stage 3 and 5 - Tunipo Road (10.00am-3.45pm):** Tunipo Rd - from Pohangina Valley East Rd to Umutoi North Rd, Umutoi North Rd - from Tunipo Rd to Pohangina Valley East Rd.
- **Special Stage 4 and 6 - Utuwai (10.45am-4.45pm):** Pohangina Rd - from a point 500m south of the end of the sealed surface to Makoura Rd, Makoura Rd - from Pohangina Rd to a point 500m after the start of the sealed surface.
- **Special Stage 7 - Ridge Rd (1.00pm-6.00pm):** Ridge Rd - (Apti end) from a point 200m before the end of the sealed surface south to Finnis Rd, Finnis Rd - from Ridge Rd to Zigzag Rd, Zigzag Rd - all of the road.

Any person objecting to the proposals is to lodge notice of his/her objection and grounds in writing before 4.00pm, Wednesday, July 21, at the office of the Manawatu District Council, Private Bag 10-001, Feilding. Should the Manawatu District Council decide to close the said roads, a public notice shall be given.

Lorraine Vincent  
Chief Executive