

## Work at Blue Bluff slip site progressing

About six thousand cubic metres of debris have been cleared from the slip site at Blue Bluff on Ōtaki Gorge Road with an estimated 40,000 more to come over the next few months before the road can be opened.

At the end of March, initial work was carried out to give excavators and trucks access to the site. This involved putting in tracks from the road, up the side of the site onto the slip face itself.

Clearing of debris from the slip face has been underway for a few weeks with the help of a 36-tonne excavator and two 40-tonne dump trucks.

“It’s great to get started on clearing the area,” Acting Group Manager Infrastructure Services Tony Martin says. “We’ve got great confidence in the level of expertise of the contractors working on the job and things are progressing well.”

Once the debris has all been taken away over the next few months, the slip face will have three seven-metre wide steps built into it with 25 metres of slope between each step. These steps will catch any debris that comes down the slope. If there is too much debris for these steps to cope with, it will fall into a ‘catch’ area beside the road rather than ending up on the road itself.



People should continue to keep away from the site while the work, expected to be completed by mid-June, is being carried out.

“It’s fantastic to have the work underway and

get closer, with each passing day, to having the road open again so people can regain access to the popular camping ground and tracks at the end of it,” Ōtaki Ward Councillor Penny Gaylor says.

**Council staff and contractors assess the slip face.**



Acting GM Infrastructure Services Tony Martin (right) with Neil Williams Roading Network Performance Team Leader.

## Curtain bank coming soon

A curtain bank is coming to Ōtaki thanks to the Sustainability Trust, with support from the Council.

Free fully-lined curtains for your main living area are available if you are a resident with a Community Services Card. You will need to print out a curtain measurement form from [sustaintrust.org.nz](http://sustaintrust.org.nz) or pick one up from the Ōtaki Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) from Monday 2 May.

Once completed, your form should be returned to Ōtaki CAB by Friday 13 May. Their staff will then give you a call to organise a time you can pick up your curtains when ready.

“Lined curtains provide great window insulation, as they prevent heat escaping through the glass,” says Council’s eco-design adviser Richard Morrison.

Richard visits homes around the district to give advice on how to make them warmer and healthier. To book an appointment, contact him via [richard.morrison@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:richard.morrison@kapiticoast.govt.nz) or 296 4651.

## Plenty on offer for youth in Ōtaki

A push on playgrounds, parks and youth projects is promising some exciting developments for young people in Ōtaki.

Feedback has flooded in from the community about playgrounds in Ōtaki as Council undertakes its regular renewal programme.

Through a series of community feedback opportunities such as drop-in sessions and online surveys, the Parks and Recreation team has taken a look at the playgrounds at Tasman Road and Haruatai Park.

“We want to create playgrounds that are accessible, fun, varied and cater for a wide range of abilities,” says Parks and Recreation Manager Alison Law.

“Our goal is to design interesting playgrounds that meet the needs of children and their caregivers and what better way to do that than ask the residents of Ōtaki themselves what they think may work.”

The community’s input will feed into the final design of the playground upgrade, which ties in nicely with the FutureKāpiti

long term plan Ōtaki pool and splash pad developments.

Young people in Ōtaki also had the chance to talk basketball with Council staffers last week as collaboration about a court at Haruatai Park continues.

Ōtaki Community Board approved a keyhole-sized or half-court basketball facility to be built on the lower level of the park at its last meeting.

Board chair James Cootes says young people played an important role in considering a range of possible sites and sizes for a new court in Ōtaki.

More input and ideas were garnered from young people in Ōtaki about the exact court size and site in the park at a free sausage sizzle and drop-in session last Tuesday.

“It’s already a destination park that pulls people to Ōtaki and breathing some life back into the basketball facilities there will enable the park to become even more of a social hub for young people and the community as a whole,” Mr Cootes says.

But it doesn’t stop there, even more exciting offerings for youth are afoot with Zeal Kāpiti in Ōtaki.

Youth development opportunities for Ōtaki are a part of Zeal Kāpiti’s Youth Development Centre activities across our district.

Through a partnership approach with Council, Zeal are actively engaging with the Ōtaki community to ensure local young people’s involvement and leadership.