

Builders, apprentices build new waharora

NEW waharora now opens the doors to Te Aratia Walkway in Pongaroa, Mahia.

Under the leadership and wise eyes of local builder Gill Kereru, 14 Level 2 EIT students in the carpentry section with their toolboxes worked on the project.

The students spent three days on the waharora as they prepared profiles, dug holes, concreted-in four large poles and set the structure for the building.

Project co-ordinator Nic Caviale-Delzescaux says construction on the Te Aratia walkway will begin in mid-December with a one walkway finishing on Jimiki Road off Mahia.

Whangawehi Catchment Management Group chair Pat O'Brien said it was an exciting time.

"The construction of the walkway offers a great opportunity for the Whangawehi Catchment Group to engage with the community and partner with tertiary institutes like EIT to offer real scenario training opportunities.

"The partnership will be extended in February 2021 with the beginning of a 15-week environmental management course

allowing students to obtain a NZ Certificate in Primary Industry Operational Skills Level 3," said Mr O'Brien and he urged people to enrol now.

Rae Te Nahu, secretary for the Whangawehi Catchment Management

Group explained that it was an awesome opportunity for the next generation of builders to learn and use their new skills on a community project.

"They understand that the building will be put to good use and took pride in building it. Who knows, in the future they could bring their families and friends to experience a walk along the river through the Te Aratia walkway," Rae Te Nahu said.

Mr Caviale-Delzescaux said seating and walls would be set up in the waharora once fine weather returns for building work.

He acknowledged the financial support received and the agencies including the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Eastern and Central Charity Trust, The Lottery Grant Board and Hawke's Bay Regional Council with hopefully more to come.



□ EIT apprentices and local builders stand under the completed Whangawehi Walkway waharora. The project took the youngsters three days to complete.

