



INFORMATION LEAFLET

Chrystalls Walkway and Stopbank Opening

Today's event acknowledges the completion of three landmark projects included in the Otaki River Floodplain Management Plan (Otaki FMP) and Otaki River Environmental Strategy (Otaki RES).

These are:

- The Chrystalls extended stopbank
- The new public walkway from State Highway One to the Chrystalls recreation area
- Opening public access for the new footbridge across the Waimanu Stream

Chrystalls extended stopbank

The completion of the Chrystalls extended stopbank is the third stage in improving the flood protection to Otaki township and the surrounding area. The third stage of the work was fast-tracked and brought forward by two years by Greater Wellington after an injection of extra funding from the Kapiti Coast District Council.



This latest flood protection project is one of the works listed in the Otaki FMP. Developed by the community and adopted by Greater Wellington in 1998, the plan identifies structural and non-structural methods for flood protection. It provides a blueprint for the management of the Otaki River and the floodplain for the next 40 years. Stage 1 of the Chrystalls works consisted of the realignment of Otaki River in 1994. Stage 2 (Chrystalls stopbank reconstruction) was completed in 2000 and involved the reconstruction of the upstream section of the Chrystalls stopbank.

Chrystalls Walkway and Waimanu Footbridge

A new recreation area, including the walkway, has been developed as part of the newly completed \$2.1m stopbank. The walkway is a level pathway about 2 km long, skirting along the edge of the mighty Otaki River. A footbridge, built with funding from Transpower, sets off the picturesque lagoon area surrounded by young native bush planted over the past 12 years. The Waimanu Footbridge is named after the stream it crosses which then feeds into the Otaki River just downstream.

About 5,000 native trees have been planted and nurtured by Friends of the Otaki River (FOTOR) and another 4,000 plants will be planted this year.



What does this mean for you?

This is the first time the public can access the lagoon area on a regular basis, and it is now possible to navigate the lagoon area via a circular pathway. The new pathway will be open to walkers and cyclists on weekends (after 12pm Saturday) and after 5pm on weekdays, when the adjoining Winstones Aggregates Quarry is closed.

The walkway will be the second part of establishing a public walkway on the north bank of the Otaki River. The first part (Highway to the Sea Walkway) was opened 18 months ago, totalling a distance of 4 km from the beach to State Highway 1.

Today, visitors will have the opportunity to help plant 1,000 native trees at the opening to show their support for the enhancement of the Otaki River environment. It is important to the community to provide access to this river corridor and maintain it as an ecological resource in the longer term.



When Greater Wellington undertakes large scale projects on rivers, an environmental enhancement component is included in the project. FOTOR are play a major role in these environmental enhancement projects on the Otaki River, which include restoration planting and the creation of green spaces and walkways. FOTOR's purpose is to represent the community in the management and development of the Otaki River and its environment. In particular, FOTOR monitors the achievement of the Otaki FMP. The group has been instrumental in the ongoing restoration of the Otaki River mouth lagoon and the Chrystalls bend lagoon further up river. Since 2005, FOTOR have been building an impressive nursery to grow native plants for river restoration projects. They are encouraging members of the public to come along and help them pot and grow on plants that will be planted out over the winter planting season.

Environmental enhancement – current and future works

The Otaki Lake Project is an ongoing project, which includes the development of a lake and amenities at the Winstones Plant on the Otaki River.

The Otaki Lake Project builds on the community vision that:

- the Otaki River is accessible for the community to enjoy
- the future development of the Winstones plant includes a focus on the greening of the industrial area and supports the development of the cycleway/walkway/bridleway



Chrystalls Walkway – from State Highway 1 to Chrystalls Lagoon

The future Otaki Lake

The Otaki Lake Project incorporates a concept plan with a long-term vision for the year 2026. This is available to view at: <http://www.kapifcoast.govt.nz/DistrictDevelopment/TheGreaterOtakiProject>

In August 2007, Winstone Aggregates and the Friends of Otaki River discussed early planting options on the proposed site. The Otaki Lake Project is being progressed alongside the Greater Otaki Vision Project. Other restoration and environmental enhancement initiatives for the Otaki River Corridor are considered as they arise.



Options for development of Otaki Lake area



**OTAKI RIVER WALKWAYS
(River Mouth to Chrystalls Lagoon)**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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May 2008