

## Kopu Bridge Replacement



Finishing works on the new Kopu Bridge are progressing rapidly. Here, hand railing on the northern side is near completion.

## Public invited to BridgeWalk

You are invited to take part in a BridgeWalk Open Day on Saturday, 10 December, organised by the NZ Transport Agency.

Walk the bridge at your leisure on Saturday, 10 December between 10.30am and 4.30pm. Local Lions and Rotary clubs will be organising parking and raising funds for the Life Education Trust and Lions Cancer Lodge. Visitors will be able to buy Bridge Walk certificates and postcards on site, with all funds going to charity.

Entertainment will be provided at the Kopu end of the bridge, and food and drink can also be purchased there.

There is no public parking available on the project site and there is very limited parking around Kopu village, so the NZ Transport Agency is providing free park-and-ride services for visitors.

Visitors from Thames, Paeroa and the Peninsula should park at Rhodes Park - the sport fields south of Thames, and catch the free buses that will leave every 10-20 minutes to transport people to and

from the eastern end of the bridge. A disability shuttle will be operating from this site.

Visitors from the Hauraki Plains side of the bridge are invited to use farm parking on the approach to the bridge. Parking areas will be signposted. Shuttle vehicles will transport you to and from the western end of the bridge.

The Bridge Walk is a walking event only. Bikes, skateboards and rollerblades are not permitted on the Bridge Walk, for safety reasons and because of the large crowds expected.

The official opening of the bridge is expected to follow within weeks of the Bridge Walk and will be for invited guests only. The NZ Transport Agency expects to have traffic running over the new bridge before Christmas.

# Kopu Bridge school video competition

Jacob Malanaphy and Bailey Bruce from Ngatea Primary School have won the NZTA Kopu Bridge School Video Competition. The school won a \$1200 Panasonic high definition video camera donated by Brown's 100% Appliances in Thames, and the winning video will be broadcast on TV Central's Mishmash kids show. Jacob and Bailey each won an MP3 music player.

Second place went to Jessica Knight and Jacob Wales of Kopuarahi School and third place to Monica Turoa and Rhythm Hetaraka of Thames South School. Each school received a Panasonic flash drive video camera prize from Brown's 100%.

The competition was open to teams of Year 7 & 8 students from schools in the Hauraki and Thames Coromandel Districts. Three finalists were chosen from the original entries and asked to make a 3-4 minute news item about the new two-lane bridge which will replace the one-lane bridge built in 1928.



Jacob Malanaphy and Bailey Bruce from Ngatea Primary School



Monica Turoa and Rhythm Hetaraka of Thames South School



Jessica Knight and Jacob Wales of Kopuarahi School



The western approach road is taking shape quickly. Settlement targets have been reached in the critical abutment areas where the approach roads meet the bridge. Road formation and sealing is progressing well due to the warm, dry weather.



A cycle and pedestrian underpass has been constructed near the eastern end of the new Kopu Bridge. This will provide safe access for cyclists riding the Hauraki Rail Trail cycleway soon to be constructed between Thames and Paeroa. It also links the Rail Trail with the cycle-walkway crossing the bridge.

These photos show the underpass tunnel before and after it was covered over by the construction of the bridge approach road. Road construction continues in the abutment area where the bridge meets the approach road.

The photo below shows the rail trail link to the underpass.





Concrete barrier construction is now complete on the bridge. In the background, the last pair of big cranes complete their final work in late October before being transported off the site. Metal guardrails are still to be fitted on the barrier on the left.



**For more information** .....

For more information, go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/kopubridge](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/kopubridge).