

TUESDAY, 4 JULY 2023

MAGICAL BRIDGE CLAUDELANDS PLAYGROUND PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our project newsletter! As sponsors, stakeholders and advocates for this exciting project, we want to make sure you're always the first to know about what's happening.

These updates will focus on telling you what's going on, introduce you to some of the people who are helping to make this happen, key features that makes this playground so different, and how you can get involved.

SITE UPDATE

The Magical Bridge Trust kicked off the Stage One construction phase at Claudelands Park with a site blessing and sod turning on the 28 April (head [here](#) for the feature in the NZ Herald). Then on 8 May the team at Fluhler Construction turned up bright and early with their diggers and got busy with site prep and demolition.

Magical Bridge Trust chair Peter van Vroonhoven says the blessing, groundbreaking and the start of construction is the culmination of almost four years of hard work.

So far, all of the existing equipment has been removed and base earthworks completed, along with the bulk of the drainage works and services (water and power) ducts installed.

The playground is already taking shape and play equipment is starting to be installed on site.

WHAT MAGICAL BRIDGE MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITY...

Michael and family are Hamilton locals. Tommy, their eldest son, has Global Developmental Delay which means he isn't always able to use standard playground equipment.

"We are looking forward to the Magical Bridge playground being a place where they can share moments and make memories while playing together instead of apart, and a place where Tommy's younger brother Billy will feel his brother is accepted and shows that all kids have the opportunity to play, and play together."



The Trust turning the first sod with Mayor Southgate



Goodbye old equipment!



The bank for the slide zone

FUNDING PROGRESS

While funding for Stage One construction is all secured, we continue to fundraise for Stage Two. So far this is going well with external sponsors contributing funding and various suppliers providing donated and discounted materials and works in kind. The generosity of the Hamilton community never ceases to amaze the Trust and we are truly grateful for these contributions, big and small.

If you or someone you know is interested in contributing towards the project, please contact the Trust via the details on the last page.

RECREATION AOTEAROA CONFERENCE 2023

Peter recently presented the Magical Bridge Playground at Recreation Aoteroa conference in Wellington to share with recreation industry professionals what we are up to here in Hamilton Kirikiriroa. Peter's presentation was very well received and generated a lot of questions including with representatives from another city in Aoteroa who are keen to follow in Hamilton's footsteps.

SPONSOR SHOUT OUT!

Magical Bridge Playground Claudelands is only made possible by the generous support and donations from a wide range of community funders and sponsors. We have had so many local firms and organizations jump at the opportunity to support the project in numerous ways:



"The team at Cube are delighted to assist with this community project, especially the added dimension of providing fun facilities for disabled people who need all the care and adventure others of us can provide."

- The Cube team supplied our construction site office and storage container.

"We love working on projects like this; community driven initiatives that benefit the wider community. It's important to Feathers Planning to support local and give back where we are able."

- Louise and her talented team completed the planning and application for our resource consent.



DID YOU KNOW...?

...the Magical Bridge playground will feature more than just inclusive and accessible physical spaces; it will also create and embed opportunities to teach, show, demonstrate and reward kindness.

Key kindness features include:

- A Kindness Cove - this is a gathering place for reflection, compassion, and conversations about acceptance, friendship, and the importance of diversity. The cove is a small walled area featuring messages to spark conversations and lessons about acceptance, good will, and friendship.
- Kindness Ambassadors - our ambassadors will host and support our guests, and acts of kindness are acknowledged. See the last page if you're interested in volunteering to be a kindness ambassador!
- A community stage - a place where families and supporters can gather and enjoy entertainment with positive messaging and accessible education.

All of these elements make a Magical Bridge playground unique and truly magical. As Olenka Villareal, Founder and CEO of the Magical Bridge Foundation in the USA says, *"playgrounds should not be islands, but clarion calls in a movement for valuing all members of a community equally."*



Magical Bridge Trust, proudly supported by



would like to thank our partners for helping to deliver this exciting project:



There's still so much more to deliver for Stage 2. If you'd like to see your company logo here or know someone who might be interested in sponsorship and donations, please get in touch.

GET IN TOUCH

Have some questions? Need to find out more? Keen to contribute to the project or want to become a Kindness Ambassador? For more information visit

www.magicalbridge.co.nz

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