

TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2023

MAGICAL BRIDGE CLAUDELANDS PLAYGROUND PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to our second 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.

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SITE UPDATE

We are now well over the halfway mark of construction! Thanks to the hard work from Fluhler Contracting and a dry August, construction is progressing well on site and it is on track for opening in early December!

It is exciting to see the shapes, structures, equipment, and colours starting to come together and our vision emerging. The playhouse and community stage look incredible, the spin zone is largely complete, and half of the concrete and soft surfaces are down. Planning has begun for the soft features such as sensory elements, art, plantings and signage.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Development of this playground has generated interest across our greater Waikato community and beyond. A South Island city has started an early conversation with the Trust and we are fielding inquiries about the unique design elements and equipment.

The Magical Bridge Foundation in the USA (with whom we have a Licensing and Partnership agreement) is also getting excited about our progress. They have asked the Trust to work together to start thinking about what an international roll out might look like.

Dennis Turton, CEO of Trust Waikato, a major funder, recently traveled with some counterparts to the USA to meet with Olenka Villareal, CEO of the USA Foundation, and visit their playgrounds. This was particularly exciting as learnings from this trip will inform other Community Trusts across Aotearoa so that when they get asked to support local Magical Bridge projects, they will have the insights and knowledge already in place.



The playhouse, bridge and community stage



The tot zone taking shape

FUNDING PROGRESS

While funding for stage one construction is all secured, we continue to fundraise for Stage 2. 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 below.

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 WPR are proud to be involved in this remarkable community project. Being able to give back to the local community is something that is very important to the WPR family."

- Matt Reynolds, Waikato Post Ramming.
Matt and his talented team built the entrance bridge to the playground.

"We are very pleased to be contributing to a project that will bring joy to the lives of people who face everyday challenges through disabilities"

- Mike West. Mike West Engineering fabricated the steel handrails for the playground.



DID YOU KNOW...?

...the Magical Bridge playground will feature a dedicated Sensory Zone!

This zone will focus on sensory play (touch, sound, vision and smell as well as movement) to build cognitive development.

The zone will include musical equipment and a 60m long raised garden. The garden wall will be a tactile wall created by local Waikato artists and feature a range of textures to touch, a rainbow of colours and hidden features to find, identify and count.

The raised garden will provide a different experience to many other gardens in that plants will be selected for not only how they look, but how they feel, move, smell and sound. These include plants such as grasses that rustle and sway in the wind, perennial herbs and flowers that emit fragrance and plants like Lambs ear that are fluffy to touch.



WHAT MAGICAL BRIDGE MEANS FOR OUR COMMUNITY...

Julie-Anne Richardson, Head of Faculty Inclusive Education, Hillcrest High School.

"We are looking forward to seeing the new park and using the equipment. Instead of wondering if there will be anything that we can use - we will be able to find heaps of things to play on. We can also play at the same park together, it will be awesome."

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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