

## Ford work comes to a standstill

By HAMISH WHITE

A FORD being built at the Rangitikei beach settlement of Koitiata by residents has come to a standstill.

Residents' committee chairman Peter Smith said the recent mechanical excavation of an access track was about as far as the project could go for the time being.

Conditions imposed on a resource consent for of the 33-metre ford stipulate that work should not impinge on nesting birds. Mr Smith said to comply with that and satisfy eager local whitebaiters, his group would probably wait until mid-September to install sandbag supports for the ford.

However, some residents will soon be planting flax on the track's margins.



Picture: HAMISH WHITE

CHECKING ON PROGRESS: James Jenkins and son Brian (6) return from inspecting the ford

# News and views



**GOING FORD:** Koitiata Residents' Committee chairman Peter Smith expects a big turnout next Saturday for the final phase of work to build a ford across the lagoon at Turakina Beach

## Work to move ford

ACCESS to Turakina Beach has been hampered by a lagoon created in the wake of storms about three years ago.

Residents began building a ford earlier this year but left off to comply with a Conservation Department directive aimed at preventing disturbing nesting birds.

Koitiata Residents' Committee chairman Peter Smith said it's hoped residents and other beach users will be out in force from 8.30am this Saturday to put the finishing touches to the project.

A new, well-drained access track to the ford has been built.

It is flanked by native plants to help prevent sand drifting away, while the course of the proposed ford has been marked with stakes.

Mr Smith said making the route "viable" is not likely to be as big a job as first thought.

He is confident Saturday's mission to sandbag and level the ford will produce the best result possible within resource consent conditions.

