

Causeway and Ford

Most people who use the beach causeway, (both villagers and public), are not aware that it is man-made via the efforts and labour of Koitiata residents. The stories from our history confirm that access to the beach has always been a challenge.

When the river moved its mouth to north of the village again in July 1998, this time the old river bed area became closed off at each end, resulting in a 4km long lagoon. Without the tidal benefits of the river, the water level stabilised making the access tracks across the lagoon, very wet and often impassable. In 2000 a proposal was formulated by residents, to build a causeway, starting just past the playground, and going all the way across to the sea side of the lagoon.

Because it was planned for the causeway to cross the old river bed, it was rejected by the authorities as it would be a barrier to the lagoon's water flow. Consent was not required for the part that went to the lagoon, only where it crossed the water.

2001



The work on the causeway/track followed during June 2001 and involved many loads of sand being moved and levelled.

Drains were dug and pipes were installed under the track.

The later planting of flax and toitoi along the sides established the causeway.

In May 2001 a modified design was proposed, for a 33-metre long submerged ford through the lagoon, from the end of the new causeway.

This was approved and consent issued to the KRC by Horizons in June 2001.

2001



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



Saturday 15th Sept 2001 was the day half the world turned out in Koitiata to help the residents to fill and distribute sand-bags for the ford. The result of all that endeavour, plus the other drainage and roading activities, was an all-weather causeway, and a navigable ford providing vastly improved beach access for everyone.



Of course that was then and this is now. In between, mother nature has stamped her authority all over the ford part of the project. That has ranged between having the sea and river push right into the lagoon and across the ford, to leaving it all high and dry as it is today in 2016.



Only a solitary white marker, from the beach end of the ford, is left standing above the driftwood, which serves as a monument to the energy and skills of our residents and their beach access endeavours.

The KRC continues to maintain the track and its drainage system with financial help from RDC.