

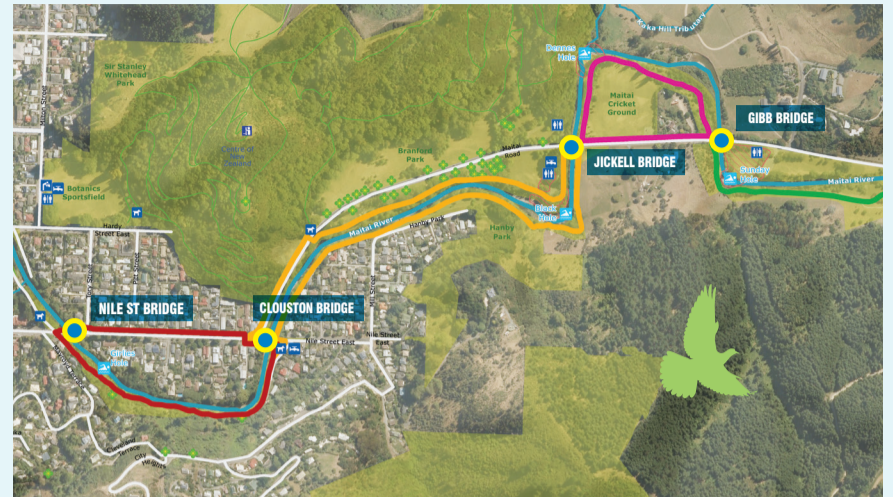
FORD REMOVAL IMPROVES FISH PASSAGE

The removal of the Almond Tree Flat ford has come just in time for a threatened species of native fish. A lamprey was found below the ford during the work, possibly trying to head upstream to spawn. The ford removal was a Project Maitai/Mahitahi operation to improve fish passage in the river.



Lampreys can be affected by pollution, so the presence of one of these unusual fish in the Maitai River is an indication of the river's improving health. Removal of the ford – the last fish barrier in the Maitai River – will mean that lamprey and other native fish are able to travel up and down stream and follow the course of their natural lifecycle.

Lamprey look like slender eels with a sucker like mouth instead of jaws. Lamprey juveniles (ammocoetes) live in burrows in silty river edges for 4-5 years before migrating out to sea. Whilst at sea, the lamprey feed parasitically on marine life for another 4-5 years, before they migrate back upstream to spawn and die.



NEW SIGNAGE TO HIGHLIGHT SHORT WALKS

Project Maitai/Mahitahi will soon erect new signage at Sunday Hole and Groom Creek to highlight short walks in the Maitai Valley, suitable for families with children.

SHORT WALKS IN THE MAITAI VALLEY – KEY

- Girlies Hole – Nile Street Loop
- Black Hole – Branford Park Loop
- Maitai Cricket Ground – Dennes Hole Loop
- Sunday Hole – Groom Creek

These include Girlies Hole – Nile Street Loop, Black Hole – Branford Park Loop, and the Maitai Cricket Ground – Dennes Hole Loop as well as walks further upstream from Gibb Bridge.

DIY PAINTERS GUIDE TO PAINT DISPOSAL

If you're painting your house you'll end up with brushes, rollers and paint trays that need cleaning.

If you wash these down an outside drain you are sending paint solids direct in to our waterways, where they will poison plants and animals, damage the river ecosystem and smother aquatic life.

To dispose of your paint waste safely, follow these useful tips:

- Leave small amounts of leftover paint to dry in an area safe from children and animals. When dry, the

paint solids can be peeled off and disposed of in your general rubbish.

- Wrap your paintbrush in clingfilm, or put it in a plastic bag and tape around the handle, when you are taking a short break up to an hour.
- For overnight storage, put paint brushes and rollers in a container of water with a tight fitting lid, such as a plastic pail or icecream container.
- When you have finished painting, clean your brushes and equipment using the two bucket system below – for acrylic (water-based) paint.



TE WAIREPO (YORK STREAM) AT RACE UNITY DAY

Project Maitai/Mahitahi launched the Te Wairepo (York Stream) initiative with a successful community stall at Race Unity Day.

The Te Wairepo project is about bringing the community together around their stream – York Stream – and sharing stories, activities and ideas about how to look after the stream that flows through people's lives.

Te Wairepo aims to increase planting along the stream edge, decrease the amount of rubbish and toxic run-off entering the water, and grow community knowledge of the stream through art and activities.

Around 200 people visited the

Te Wairepo stall at Race Unity Day, where they could record their perceptions of the stream on a map, find out about the wildlife that lives around the stream, and take away a bagged native seedling with a compostable grow bag, a rubbish bag and stream care information.

Te Wairepo will be continuing to engage with people in the community about the ecological and cultural values of York Stream, and how we can better care for it.