

Pupils make tracks as biking facility launched

By Jamie Adams

Pupils at Miramar Central School were given the honour of trying out their new bike track park after it was officially opened last Thursday.

At an after-school presentation to parents and children, principal Ed Trotter said the biking facility was a major asset for the wider Miramar community.

"Three years ago a koha was given to Te Kura o Whataitai (Miramar Central School) by Weta Digital to develop our school environment.

"Discussion was had with our school community to develop a special taonga that would unite the school and our local community."

The project includes 50 bicycles and 270 helmets (catering for each pupil) and the park consists of an asphalted circuit track, a pump or BMX track and a technical track.

Mayor Justin Lester, Eastern Ward councillor Simon Marsh and Rongotai MP Paul Eagle attended the launch, which Justin says made for a great reunion with his former colleague, especially

as all three were elected on the same day in 2010.

"This is now the twelfth track we've built in the city. You can see the joy when the kids get out there, are confident on their bikes, they know there's no traffic, they can just go for it and have a bit of fun.

"I know all the kids in the local community will love using this facility."

"The track is a gift to our community," Ed later told the Cook Strait News. "They can use it after school and on weekends.

"With our Pedal Ready programme everyone learns to ride and gain confidence in a safe environment as well as Push Play. They can then cycle to school with confidence."

Board chair Georgia Miles says it was parents who approached Bikes in Schools who accepted MCS into its programme.

"It's about getting kids off the devices and onto the pedals."

The \$120,000 project was funded by Weta Digital, the NZTA, Bike On Trust, Lion Foundation and parents of Miramar Central School pupils. However funding hasn't been completed and a Give A Little page exists with a target of \$10,000.



Mayor Justin Lester cuts the ribbon to open Miramar Central School's new bike track on Thursday. PHOTO: Jamie Adams