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Brandon Intermediate



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PRESS RELEASE

Brandon Intermediate Bike and Health Track welcomed by school and community

Cannons Creek's Brandon Intermediate celebrated the opening of its new bike track with students, their families and community members recently. (Thursday March 7th).

Principal Paul McKendry said the 400 metre track had been three years in the making. "Three years ago Partners Porirua came to me and offered \$50,000 - half the cost of the track - and our Board of Trustees agreed to fund the difference. PLC contracting started the work in September last year, but the work was hampered by terrible weather conditions and it was finally finished over the Christmas holidays."

Freemasons NZ also offered the school \$8,000 which helped the intermediate fund a container to store bikes in and went towards bikes.

USO Bikes ran a bike safety course last year to help Brandon students learn how to ride and also helped service the intermediate's bikes. USO will run a second bike safety course this year.

Mr McKendry said three things really pleased him about the project. *"Firstly, students had bikes to ride. Students have fun on the bikes and by the time they have done a couple of laps they are sweating and working hard, which is good exercise. Secondly, they have a safe way to walk to the gate, rather than trying to walk between cars parked to pick them up. Thirdly, five laps was equivalent to 2km which was good for students whether they were walking or riding."*

Board of Trustees parent representative Linda Patia, who attended Brandon Intermediate and had children go through the school, thanked everyone that was part of the project. *"Children look after your track, enjoy your track and make happy memories,"* she said.

USO bikes Matapuku Robati told those gathered that three of the USO staff were former Brandon Intermediate students. He thanked staff for valuing not only the tamariki, but also the community. *"If something is challenging it builds resilience. Everything starts small, but one day students here might do the Tour de France or Boston Marathon."* USO uses bikes, but we do it to help our community.

USO co-founder Chris T'eo said the group taught 'Pedal Ready' across a number of Porirua Schools. It also ran 'Motuhenga (Authentic) Cycle Hub' which operates from Waitangirua Mall. Motuhenga offers lessons on learning to ride and basic bike repairs for a koha.

Brandon Intermediate student Levi Kemoeanga said *"The bike track is fun. It is big and has lots of bumps. I can go fast and I can ride with no hands."*

Thank you to Jude Pointon for this Press Release.



Brandon Intermediate principal Paul McKendry and Year 8 student Nhel Autida, whose father helped construct the Bike and Health Track



Matapuku Robati - USO Bikes



Linda Patia – Brandon Intermediate Board of Trustees



Coming up

Date	Item
March 20th	NZEI Meeting - Brandon Intermediate staff are attending a union meeting. We are asking that students go home on Wednesday March 20 th at 12.30pm – there will be supervision for students who require it.
March 27th	Board of Trustees meeting 5:30pm

Nga Mihi,
Paul McKendry
Principal