

Kauri forest site transforms into school



From left: Bruce Pulman Park chief executive Brian Blake, foundation principal Matt Williams, board of trustees chairman Daniel Newman and foundation deputy principal Robbie Perreau are working hard to establish Kauri Flats School which is set to open in February, 2017. Bruce Pulman Park is also working closely with the establishment board on the development of the new school.

The site of an old kauri forest is being transformed into a new school.

The primary school set to be built at 181-191 Walters Rd in Takanini is on track to open in February 2017.

Its official name will be Kauri Flats School after the area which was once used for gum digging.

Foundation principal Matt Williams says the school's "vision" statement is "unrelenting curiosity for learning".

Design plans will soon be finalised in time for the official turning of the first sod on February 23.

The Ministry of Education has set aside \$20 million for the school, one of three planned for the area, and it will cater for up to 700 students from years 1 to 8.

Williams says the school will offer academic and social opportunities for students and the community. As well as core literacy, numeracy and science programmes, it will also be set up for "digital world learning".

"Our aim is to not just ensure our students excel academically but in all aspects of the curriculum, including the arts and sports," Williams says.

The school is also celebrating the appointment of Robbie Perreau as one of its foundation deputy principals.

Perreau says helping establish a new school in an area he grew up in is "the chance of a lifetime".

"Takanini and Papakura is where my heart lies. My grandfather worked at the Papakura Army Camp. I remember when the whole area was farmland.

"Putting our students first is our priority. We want to put endeavour, hard work, resilience and success at the heart of our school. It's a very exciting time."

The school is now finalising its enrolment zone and will be open for enrolments in July this year.

Work is also underway for the design phase of the school logo with the help of the establishment board of trustees and its inaugural chairman Daniel Newman.

The board is keen to hear the community's ideas and welcomes any input and advice on the logo's design.

Email Matt Williams at kfsprincipal@gmail.com if you would like to have your say.

- Stuff