



CHECKING IT OUT: Taupo businessmen, from left Dave Forsyth, Alan Vane, Malcolm Flowers and Phil Battersby, at Bangers Bridge half way along the new Redwoods cycle track. Photo Warwick Blackler

New cycle track ready for action

by Nikki Carmichael

Bike Taupo officially opened the Redwoods track along the western side of the Waikato River on Saturday.

The new track signals another step in the organisation's vision to create an off-road cycle route from the centre of Taupo along the Waikato River and back to town.

Bike Taupo member Alan Vane says the Redwoods project started after funding from Rotary helped with creating the track running along the western side of the Waikato River.

Since that track was such a success, it was suggested the loop be completed, Mr Vane says.

Chairman Pete Masters said to him, "If you can raise the money go for it".

So Mr Vane looked at the oldest businesses in the community and approached them with the idea to

sponsor the track.

He says that without hesitation they all agreed.

Mr Vane says this was an opportunity for them to give something back to the community who had supported them over the years.

He says a lot of other business also helped by donating signage and materials.

Within eight weeks of organising the funding the track had been created, he says.

Since then, Mr Vane says, the organisation has discovered that the government-owned land is rife with history.

For instance, Scotsmans pool, a popular swimming hole, was located near the track until it was destroyed by the creation of the state highway.

The track begins by going through a group of old redwoods and winds its way on to a stand of 10-year-old redwoods at the end.