

**The new bridge in Longbush Reserve (the 'Gizzy Golden Gate')** doubles the length of the track in this part of the rare riverside alluvial bush at Longbush. This bridge, which was designed by Jeremy Salmond, was funded by the Williams Trusts, DOC Lower North Island regional office, the Eastern and Central Community Trust, and Anne Salmond's fees as a member of the Air New Zealand Sustainability Panel. It was largely built by staff and students at the Eastern Institute of Technology, who did a brilliant job.

Students in the EIT Farming Course opened the fence to give access for the heavy bridge timbers, and then closed the fence again at the end of the project; students in the Carpentry Level 4 Course surveyed the site; and staff Matt Evans and Ben Stevenson & students in the EIT Trades Construction level 2 course built three scaffolds to enable the construction of the bridge, and the bridge itself. A team of staff and students carried the heavy 12m glulam beams onto the site. The walkway and steps leading onto and off the bridge were built by two very generous local builders, Ryan Thompson and Craig Jenkins, who charged a nominal amount for their labour, and added great value.

The bridge, which was opened by Phillida Eivers, Chairperson of the Williams Trusts, is a true community partnership, and a tribute to all concerned. The structure is elegant and extremely robust and will give great pleasure to many in the years to come.





Walkway onto the Bridge



'The Bridge Club'



'Gizzy Golden Gate'

