



Leithfield

ACTION

Case Story #3

March 2022. Southern Entrance, before work started

Community Spirit Shines Bright

Overview

In February 2021 the Council was approached by the Leithfield School Principal to discuss opportunities for Leithfield Village.

Coppard Reserve was highlighted as a space that was overdue for some improvements. Discussion centred around how to make the reserve more user friendly.

Coppard Reserve, Leithfield

Location: between Old Main North Road, Brighton Street and Ramsgate Street in Leithfield.

Named after Mr Malcolm Coppard who previously owned the land.

The reserve contains a number of established trees and an open drain along the northern boundary of the site.

Prior to the 2021 consultation the remainder of the reserve was landscaped open space.

First Steps

A site visit at Coppard Reserve was held to catch up with local Jo Hassall, chairperson Leithfield Community Centre Inc (LCCI), to discuss the concerns raised by Leithfield School and what could occur at a community level.

It was felt that the way forward would be to request Council to do a consultation on the Coppard Reserve Management Plan incorporating some suggested improvements, which were:

- that the macrocarpa hedge at the western entrance be removed
- that a basketball hoop with half court be installed
- that two or three adult cross trainer stations be installed

Challenges

- 1** The consultation period legally had to be open for two months – this created delays before funding could be applied for or before any work could start.
- 2** Finding funds to implement the changes, so it wasn't an additional burden to ratepayers. A huge thanks is owed to the wider Leithfield community for their donations of goods, time and muscle and especially to Rātā Foundation for fully funding the adult exercise trainers and basketball court.

Results

Thanks to an amazing amount of community spirit, assistance, working bees, and donations the following has been completed as at November 2022:

- removal of macrocarpa hedge
- installation of adult exercise equipment on a concrete pad
- installation of half court basketball court with hoop
- earthworks to replace hedge and preparation for plantings
- installation of historical story boards outlining Leithfield community history
- gardening under trees and mulch laid
- an additional picnic table installed

A time lapsed video of the project is available here: <https://youtu.be/ows82d3WIU4>



Before the work started



Basketball Court

"It's fabulous to see so many people enjoying the reserve. At long last the reserve is a great asset to the community and will be for years to come."

Jo Hassall – Chairperson, Leithfield Community Centre Inc



Adult exercise equipment