



Motorists drive past Blackrock's new safety railing.



There was plenty of fish for hands-on training when Rakahanga School got filleting lessons. 14050714

Rakahanga fishery officer

New safety barrier at Blackrock blackspot

VOLUNTEERS have been hard at work building a new safety rail at Blackrock designed to prevent motorists driving over the bank.

Nono Rangi, head of the Ruaau Community Working Group, said a group of men have given up their time over the past two Saturdays and the railing should be completed this weekend.

"We've got most of the work done. We just need to grind and clean the rails, then put an undercoat on and finish it."

Rangi said the road at Blackrock is a danger spot and a car went over the bank only recently.

"That's not the only one – there have been others before that."

Funding for the project came from the Cook Foundation, a charitable trust set up by United Kingdom resident George Cook.

Member of Parliament William Heather successfully applied for \$2000 from the foundation in December.

Rangi said the rails were generously donated by Mac Mokoroa, Infrastructure Cook Islands secretary, who obtained them from Toa Petroleum.

Having the rails donated means there will probably be money left over, which will be put towards other community projects, she said.

"Once we've finished, we'll move onto the back road because there are two or three bridges that need rails too."

■ Ben Chapman-Smith