

GREAT LAKE, GREAT PLACE, GREAT PEOPLE

## Heu Heu Street roundabout set in stone

The Heu Heu and Ruapehu Streets roundabout has just undergone a makeover. Work on the roundabout upgrade started earlier this month, with diseased and dangerous trees being removed, as well as damaged planter beds.

The roundabout upgrade project was part of an annual town centre improvement budget. The Heu Heu and Ruapehu Streets roundabout was identified early on in the Taupō Urban Commercial and Industrial Structure Plan as a key traffic and pedestrian intersection and therefore unlikely to undergo any major change in the future which made it a safe investment for spending on town centre beautification.

All materials have been sourced locally, including the dacite stone, and the project continues the theme set by other recent town centre upgrades. "The combination of wood and stone is not only beautiful, but offers a connection back to the natural landscape," says Urban Design

and Development Manager John Ridd. The upgrade project includes extended pedestrian space on the footpath and an easy care garden. "Already people have used the space as a place to gather and are sitting and resting on the stone walls. It's fantastic to see people engaging with the urban landscape."

Work on the new and improved Heu Heu Street roundabout was done with minimal disruption to traffic and pedestrians. The major works were completed last week with the finishing touch going in this week; new bench seats on each corner and a piece of artwork on loan from local art gallery ZeaYou. ZeaYou Gallery and Kura Gallery, both on Heu Heu Street, will share the prime position to showcase artworks each week, while adding culture to the newly refurbished streetscape. "The stone sculpture from ZeaYou fits the landscape so beautifully, we would love to see this idea become a permanent feature," says Mr Ridd.



ZeaYou sculpture

### MAYOR RICK COOPER HALF TIME TALK



As you read this we will have just completed week three of the six week Tournament that is the Rugby World Cup 2011 (RWC). We are only half way through and already the town is buzzing. The international visitors are here, the domestic tourists are here, the campervans are here and they are all spending money and enjoying what our wonderful district has to offer. I've checked with many businesses; retailers, tourism operators, hoteliers and restaurateurs, and they have all confirmed that business is good!

Whilst I do not condone excessive drinking, I did note in the paper recently that one Taupō bar had to order an extra 90 kegs of beer in the first week of RWC 2011 alone.

"We have been beamed around the world, being exposed on BBC Wales, ITV in Ireland and many more international media channels."

For those of you who are interested in statistics, Taupō has been rated as having the fourth highest increase in spending, compared to this time last year, for the RWC period. Not bad considering we don't have any matches. And, remembering that this is still only half time. I think the next three weeks could be even better for us.

We had a great time with the Irish team last week, who were still in good spirits after their historic win against our near neighbours, the Wallabies. Some of the players met with a group of local ex-pat Irish at the Hilton Hotel and were only too happy to pose for photos and sign jerseys, rugby balls, babies and whatever the locals could get their hands on. The Springbok too were in good form, welcoming locals to attend two public

training sessions during their ten day stay in Taupō.

I must say, I do like it when a good plan comes together. The RWC 2011 Host Coordinating Committee, chaired by our unflappable Deputy Mayor Mike Downard, has been working hard for two years to put Taupō on the world stage. I think they have achieved this and more. We have been beamed around the world, being exposed on BBC Wales, ITV in Ireland and many more

international media channels. It doesn't get much better than that. One journalist said in his online blog that Taupō was "probably the happiest place in New Zealand right now." He went as far as saying that "Taupo should change its name to 'Nice.'" Wow, what an endorsement. Well done Taupō, give yourselves a pat on the back.

Like any good coach would say to his team: "We've had a good first half lads, now let's keep it up!" Remember, the visitors that are here enjoying themselves today are conduits for those who may be thinking about visiting tomorrow. So let's make sure we continue to give them great stories to take home.

On behalf of my Council, I wish you all the best for the remainder of the Tournament.

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## New speed limits from Saturday

Newly reduced speed limits for some sections of Taupō roads come into affect this Saturday 1 October and drivers are asked to please be aware of the lowered speeds.

The main changes to the speed limit bylaw are:

- Centennial Drive between Spa Road and Tauhara Road intersection and entrance to the Golf course – from 80km/h reduced to 60km/h.
- Mapara Road between Wakeman Road and Highland Drive – from 80km/h reduced to 70km/h. All side roads off Mapara Road within this section will also be 70km/h.
- Clearwater Lane and Ferndale Way will have a posted speed limit of 80km/h.
- Aratiatia Road, 300m west and 400m east of the Aratiatia Dam Bridge, will have a speed limit of 70km/h.



## Samoan flavour for Fanzone



Tonight's RWC 2011 clash between heavyweights South Africa and Pacific favourites Samoa will be projected live onto the big screen at the Family Friendly Fanzone at the Great Lake Centre. The Samoan community are proudly hosting tonight's Fanzone and invite everyone to come and enjoy a slice of warm Samoan hospitality. Chop Suey will be on the menu, as well as Samoan music and dancing, and even a lava-lava competition. The fun starts tonight from 6.30pm with kick-off at 8.30pm.

## Take back your TV for free

New Zealanders have the opportunity to responsibly dispose of their old TV for free at The Warehouse until 4 October 2011. 'The Great TV Take Back' scheme – a first for New Zealand – is about encouraging Kiwis to do the right thing as part of the Government's Love New Zealand recycling programme. RWC 2011, and the impending switch from analogue to digital television, is creating a surge in unwanted TVs which are a difficult recycling challenge and could pose an environmental problem. There are 2.2 million old cathode ray tube TVs containing 4000 tonnes of lead and it is estimated that more than 500,000 will be retired this year. This programme will enable the recycling of 96% of the materials in a TV set. 'The Great TV Take Back' is a free recycling service with no obligation to buy a new TV. The old TV does not need to have been purchased from The Warehouse.



### IMPORTANT DATES

- 30 Sept Fanzone: South Africa v Samoa (hosted by Samoan community), 6.30pm Great Lake Centre
- 1 Oct Reel Rock Film Festival, 4.00pm Taupō Events Centre
- 8 Oct Turangi Rugby Festival, 3.00pm Tongariro Charter Club
- 7-9 Oct NZ Junior Rugby Tournament, Owen Delany Park, Taupō
- 8-9 Oct Tuwharetoa Māori Sports & Expo, Great Lake Centre and Tongariro Domain, Taupō

Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07 376 0899 OR VISIT [WWW.TAUPO.GOVT.NZ](http://WWW.TAUPO.GOVT.NZ)



Mayor Rick Cooper, Dep Mayor Mike Downard, Cr Keith Grate, Cr Rob Henderson, Cr Barry Hickling, Cr Chris Johnston, Cr Gary Keepa, Cr Anna Kirk, Cr Rex Mincher, Cr Kirsty Trueman, Cr Nicola Williams