

GREAT LAKE, GREAT PLACE, GREAT PEOPLE

COUNCILLOR ROBERT HENDERSON
FOCUSING ON OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Graffiato adds life to urban walls

The Graffiato Urban and Street Art festival, held over Labour Day weekend, left a lasting impression on Taupō's CBD alleyways and the Turangi SH1 underpass.

Eighteen of New Zealand's leading street artists were invited to Taupō District for the first-of-its-kind festival and were provided with an abundance of blank walls and three days to create vibrant and colourful permanent artworks. In total 18 unique and vibrant large scale murals were created in the Taupō CBD alleyways, and one special collaborative mural in the Turangi SH1 underpass.

Graffiato also attracted thousands of observers who enjoyed the chance to get up close and personal with the artists.

Curated by Cut Collective member, Ross Liew, the inaugural 'Graffiato' is a new biennial festival delivered by Erupt Events, Taupō's Arts Trust, who also deliver the nationally renowned biennial 'Erupt Lake Taupō Festival'.

"Graffiato has permanently changed the face of street art in New Zealand," said Mr Liew.

"It was an outstanding creative collaboration by many of our best and most recognised street artists, who thrived

on the opportunity to come together for an intensive and energising weekend of Street Art.

"Street Art is more than decoration," continues Mr Liew. "It is not surprising that the compulsion that drives artists to work with such a challenging site also affects the tone and content of their work. It takes passion to deal with the unpredictable nature of what you face when making art out in the streets. Public scrutiny, the rain, the wind, the unpredictable surfaces are just part of the challenge.



"Our guest artists have exhibited and painted all over the world, and now they have brought their truly international flavour to Taupō," said Mr Liew.

"We hosted artists from Russia, North America, Columbia, South Africa, England and New Zealand who each created standalone and joint artworks in their own distinctive style."

Erupt Events General Manager, Kylie Hawker worked with Taupō business and property owners to secure the artwork sites, which are primarily in and around the CBD.

As it becomes clearer that, despite forecasts, the country isn't emerging from recession and earnings are continuing to fall, it is worth reflecting on what our District's focus is. It is time to consider if we are being both realistic in our outlook and making the most of our competitive advantages.



RWC 2011 has been great for the country and has provided both a lift to spirits and a significant economic boost to some regions and sectors of the economy. While many hospitality businesses in our District have done well, the accommodation sector saw severe declines. As a major tourist destination, retaining people in the region longer, and the commercial

of the Lake Taupō Protection Project to reduce nitrogen emissions in the catchment as a costly environmental project, others may see this as 'future proofing' businesses and giving us a 'first mover' advantage in an increasingly nitrogen and carbon conscious future. The adaption and innovation spurred by this work is evident in the success

"In hard economic times it pays to make the most of what you already have."

viability of the accommodation sector to underpin our Events Capital positioning are major issues that needs to be addressed with a specific plan.

of the Taupo Beef project; with sales in local outlets exceeding those of less expensive, less sustainably produced products.

In hard economic times it pays to make the most of what you already have. We need to take a strategic approach and leverage off our points of difference; the District's geothermal energy, the work of the Lake Taupō Protection Trust and the UNESCO World Heritage Tongariro National Park are prime examples.

In addition, while we use images of the Tongariro National Park, the Whakapapa ski fields and the Tongariro Crossing in our marketing, do we really utilise these assets to our advantage as National Park Village and the Ruapehu District have done so well? 70,000 people a year walk the Tongariro Crossing, 30,000 the Lake Rotopounamu and our own Huka Falls receives 750,000 guests. None of these assets are specifically marketed and I believe a greater focus on them would be of benefit to the District.

After attending the New Zealand Clean Energy Expo I am not sure many in our District fully understand, or articulate as best we could, the benefits of geothermal energy. For example, did you know New Zealand has one of the fastest growing geothermal industries in the world? In an increasingly energy constrained future we need to be more specific about these advantages and the nature of development and business we hope to attract here.

If we are to benefit from our competitive advantages it will take a concerted effort as a district. Council would love to hear from anyone who has any ideas they wish to share with us on these matters.

While some may see the work

Councillor Robert Henderson
rhenderson@taupo.govt.nz
021 505 376

New tree species for waterfront

Trees on Taupō's Lakefront Reserve are currently being replaced with new, shorter growing species as many of the existing trees have been badly damaged. Years of poor pruning practices and constant topping to preserve waterfront views has resulted in severe disfigurement, significant decay and fungal growth in the branches.

The new varieties being planted include olives, ornamental pears and cherries, as well as Indian Bead trees and silk trees; all of which will not grow to the same height and density as the trees that were previously planted and will therefore not require topping.

Council staff had planned to remove the most severely disfigured trees next winter and review the remaining trees over time. Unfortunately, some of the newly planted trees have been vandalised and damaged. If ongoing damage to the new trees delays their establishment, the old trees may have to stay longer until Council can decide on the best approach for the new planting.



Tenders sought

Taupō District Council is seeking tenders from local builders for residential sections on Tauhara Ridge (Stage 1) being Lots 30-46 DP 423710.

Tender closes at 1.00pm, 30 November 2011. Copies of the tender documentation are available from the main Taupō District Council Office on Lake Terrace.

Waikato River Trail Grand Opening Tomorrow

Join us at Whakamaru Reserve tomorrow, Saturday 5 November, and help celebrate the Grand Opening of the Waikato River Trail's completion of 100km of trails. Participate in the opening by bike or on foot. There is the option of a 14km bike ride or an 8-14km walk.

This spectacular walking and cycling trail follows the shores of the mighty Waikato River from Mangakino Lakefront back to the Whakamaru Reserve, with breathtaking views of the river and surrounding native bushlands.

You must register for this event and book your seat on the bus by calling the office on 07 883 3720 before 4.30pm today. Sign in on the day between 10.00 and 11.00am at Whakamaru Reserve. The event will go ahead rain or shine.



For more information check out www.waikatorivertrails.com

IMPORTANT DATES

- 4 November Rakau (Wood) Exhibit Opens, Taupō Museum
- 5 November Starlight Cinema Centre Fireworks Extravaganza, 6.30pm Owen Delany Park
- 5 November Secret Bridesmaid's Business – live stage show, 8.00pm Centre Stage Taupō
- 6 November Taupō Bluelight Trolley Derby, Hillview Drive (off Mapara Road)
- 8 November Final day: ONEhundred exhibit, Taupō Museum

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07 376 0899 OR VISIT WWW.TAUPO.GOV.TZ

