

LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL VALUES

Council is working with the community to ensure that important landscape and natural areas around the district are protected from inappropriate development or use. Open days were held around the District in April to get feedback on a draft map that identifies unique landscape areas and blocks of important native vegetation. Letters have also been sent out to affected property owners.

Further consultation will be undertaken once Council has looked at what provisions may be needed in the District Plan to manage activities like vegetation clearance, location of buildings, earthworks and subdivision in protected areas. For information contact Senior Environmental Policy Planner Kara Maresca ph: 07 3760641 or epu@taupo.govt.nz



“ Sometimes we must set our own wants and needs aside in favour of the long-term, overall good of the district. We need to look after the lake so it can be enjoyed by every generation to come. ”

KATHRYN UVHAGEN (CHAIR TAUPO/KAINGAROA-MANGAKINO/POUAKANI COMMITTEE)

ERUPT!

Taupo's Great Lake Centre, the newly renovated Taupo Library, the Taupo Museum and the Tongariro Domain are at the epicentre of activity during the upcoming ERUPT Lake Taupo Arts Festival (8 -18 May). The 11 day festival showcases more than 30 cultural and arts events, shows and exhibitions featuring local and overseas artists. The Great Lake Centre will house The Crater Room, a purpose built cabaret and music venue. A spectacular Geodome in front of the Great Lake Centre on the Tongariro Domain will be used



for pre and post-show dining and drinks. The new-look Taupo Library is the venue for a Writers ERUPT programme. The Lake Taupo Museum and the famous Ora garden will host exhibitions and live artist demonstrations. Festival activities get underway on Thursday 8 May. For further information about festival events and activities go to www.eruptfestival.co.nz



PUBLIC ART

Public art is being incorporated into the area around the newly refurbished Taupo Library. The art works include a stainless steel railing designed by Peter Langford featuring a proverb in English, Maori and Braille (pictured), a glass canopy designed by Mark Te Kahu and an entranceway Waharoa carving by Delany Brown.

The art works have been funded by Council with assistance from Creative New Zealand through a Regional Strengths Maurangi Toi programme.

Your District

An update from Council on the people and projects in Taupo District

DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN HEARINGS

Submissions to Council's Draft 2008/09 Annual Plan are being heard this month (5-9 May). The submission period ran from Monday 17th March to Monday 21st April. The draft Plan sets the rates for the next financial year starting July 2008 and outlines the activities that Council plans to undertake, the associated costs and any changes from the 2006 - 2016 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

The draft Plan is due to be adopted toward the end of June and will be publicly available in early July. Full copies of the draft Plan are available from Council offices, libraries and www.taupo.govt.nz.



“ We have worked really hard to keep the rates increase for the next financial year

at a sustainable level and to find a good balance between affordability and the desires of our communities. ”

MAYOR RICK COOPER

LOOKING AHEAD

Planning is underway for Council's 2009 - 2019 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The LTCCP sets out the activities that Council intends to undertake over the

next ten years, what we are trying to achieve and the costs of these activities. To help with development of this ten year plan Council will be holding an Expo in August.

The Expo will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the projects Council has been working on and to enable feedback on the direction that Council may take over the next ten years.

BUSY PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH COUNCIL

The Taupo Youth Council has a busy few months ahead. The Youth Council is working with the local Café 4 Youth Health group "Extreme" to organise an event in Taupo on May 30 - Do it 2 It - to mark National Youth Week, featuring national and local bands. Planning is also underway for a Silent Disco later in the year.

The Youth Council will also be working with Council staff during development of Council's next Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019. The Youth Council is made up of 21 representatives. The two Taupo District Council representatives on the Youth Council are Crs Mich'ael Downard and Bernhard Chrustowski. The Youth Council meets every month during the school year to encourage youth participation in civic affairs and give feedback to Taupo District Council on youth issues.

RECYCLING IN PUBLIC PLACES

Thirty new recycling bins are being installed around the Taupo Central Business District, lakefront and reserves over the next month. The recycling bins, marked with the Government's "Love NZ - recycle with care" brand, have been funded by the Ministry for the Environment. The bins will be installed alongside regular rubbish bins and will take tin, glass, aluminium and plastic. The Ministry for the Environment's contribution to the project of up to \$165,000 over three years will pay for the bins and the collection of the recyclables. It is planned to launch the scheme in the region on 5 June, World Environment Day.



SAFER COMMUNITIES

Taupo District Council is taking a leadership role with crime prevention to reassure the community that a zero tolerance approach will be taken to violent and antisocial behaviour in the town. The move follows the murder earlier this year of British tourist Karen Aim, a number of assaults on tourists and incidents of petty crime. A meeting in Taupo in March to discuss crime prevention issues attracted a turnout of more than 800 people who gave Council the mandate to pursue the formation of a Safer Communities Trust. Mayor Rick Cooper says it is envisaged that the Trust will bring together community groups and people working with youth and victims of crime

to enable a co-ordinated approach to be taken to safer community initiatives. Earlier this year Council ramped up security patrols at the Taupo Boat Harbour and some key local reserves after reports of vandalism and theft from boats. Anyone wanting to report any unusual activity at the Boat Harbour or local reserves can contact Security on Ph: 0800 473656 or 0800 4SENJO.

“ We must all play our part in finding a solution. No man is an island and we will only deal with this growing problem in our society if we share our ideas and take collaborative action. ”

MAYOR RICK

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE PLAN

Council has begun the task of determining what to include in a proposed Commercial and Industrial Structure Plan for Taupo town. The Plan will identify appropriate land uses and infrastructure requirements for commercial and industrial land in Council's growth management strategy - Taupo District 2050 (TD2050). The Plan will guide the future look and function of existing and proposed commercial and industrial areas around Taupo - including the Central Business District. It will also consider the best way of managing the future development of large format retail outlets. Council officers are currently talking to



DEPUTY MAYOR CHRISTINE MCELWEE

“A Council's greatest wealth is its citizens. Over the next three years, our new-look Council will provide you with many opportunities to have your say. We need your views and ideas to help us do our best in governing this beautiful district.”

people to firm up exactly what will be covered in the Plan. Key stakeholders will then be invited to join a forum that will provide feedback to Council as the Plan is developed. Anyone who wishes to be added to a contact list and kept informed about progress should contact Senior Environmental Policy Planner Hilary Samuel (ph: 376 0634 or hsamuel@taupo.govt.nz).

ETA PROGRESS REPORT

Tenders for the final design and construction of the East Taupo Arterial highway close at the end of this month (May 30). The 15 kilometre highway will run from Taupo airport around the eastern outskirts of the town linking with State Highway One at Wairakei by way of a bridge over the Waikato River. Three companies have been short listed to tender for the final design/construction phase.

A recommendation is due to go to Council toward the end of July. If everything goes to plan, construction should get underway in the second half of this year. The cost of the project including investigation, land purchase, design and construction is currently estimated at around \$110 million. Three quarters of the cost is being funded by Land Transport New Zealand with Council making up the remainder.

Right: proposed route of ETA.



LAKESHORE EROSION AND FLOODING

A Strategy to manage the erosion and flood risk around the Taupo lakeshore is being developed

by Taupo District Council and Environment Waikato (EW). Two technical reports looking at the level of risk from erosion and flooding around the lakeshore are being used as the basis for community consultation during



April and May. A draft Strategy will be prepared during the second half of the year and taken back to the community and stakeholders for further comment.

The final Strategy is due to be adopted next year. It will:

- define roles and responsibilities
- recommend measures for managing the erosion and flood risk
- recommend funding options and a timetable for future work.

For further information on the Lake Taupo Erosion and Flood Strategy go to www.taupo.govt.nz or www.ew.govt.nz



HAVE YOUR SAY - DRAFT MAPARA VALLEY PLAN

People are being encouraged to have their say on a draft Structure Plan and proposed District Plan change that will guide future development in the Mapara Valley - west of Taupo. Plan Change 23 - Mapara Valley Structure Plan Area proposes the inclusion of new provisions and zones in the District Plan. The changes would enable a degree of low impact urban development to occur in the area on a staged basis providing approximately 2000 residential lots over the next 20 years.

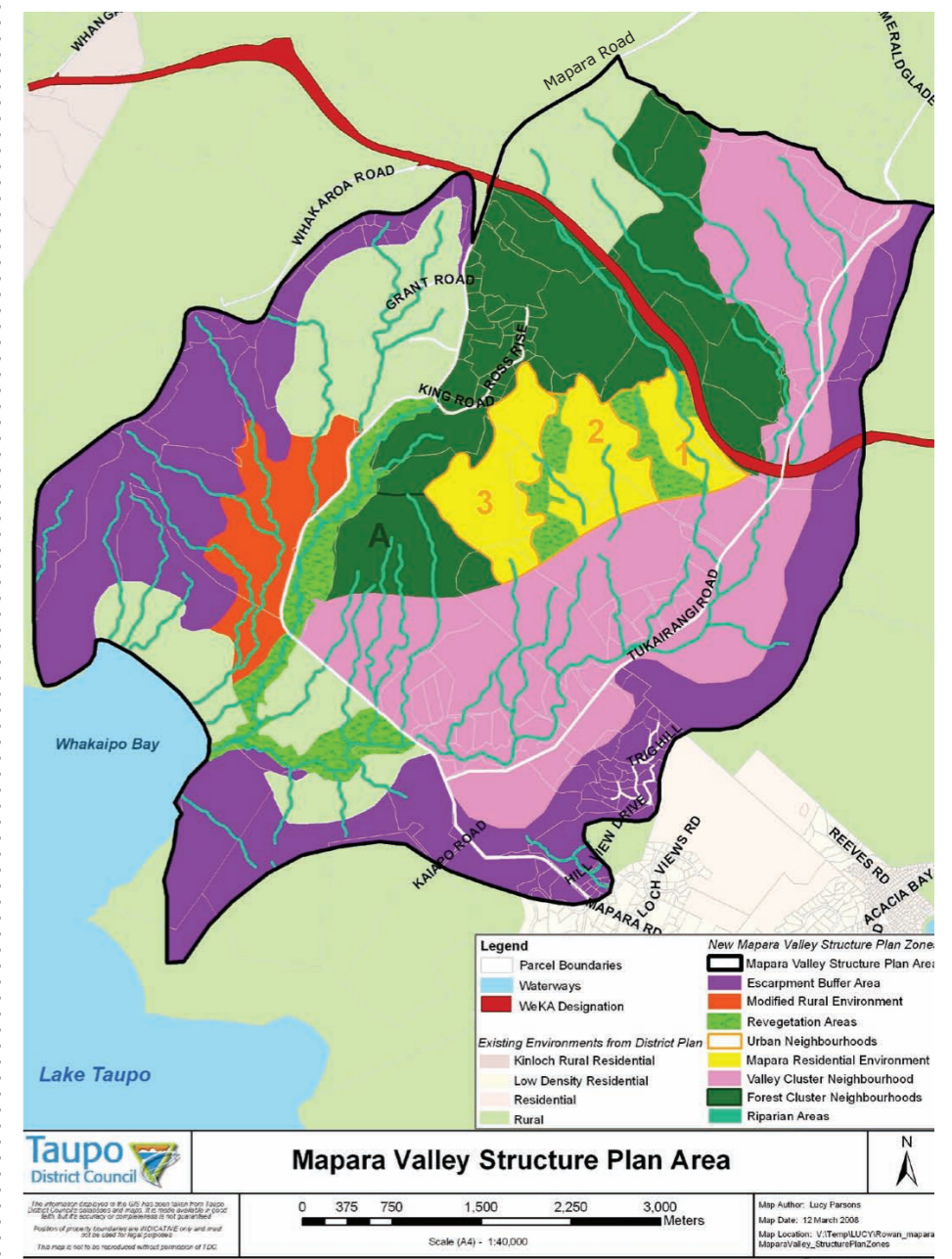
The proposed District Plan change was notified at the beginning of April. Submissions must be received by May 30. Further information about the proposed District Plan change and supporting information is available on-line www.taupo.govt.nz.



to be able to say, 'The old bugger didn't do a bad job after all'.

DON ORMSBY (CHAIR TURANGI/TONGARIRO COMMUNITY BOARD, REG. & HEARINGS COMMITTEE)

“You don't have to be a genius to know that good planning leads to a good outcome. I want my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren



TURANGI AQUATIC CENTRE ON TRACK

Turangi's former Turtle Pool will have a new look and a new name when it re-opens to the public later this year. A \$4.5 million upgrade to the former Turangi Turtle Pool complex - renamed the Genesis Energy Turangi Aquatic Centre - is on target for completion in July. The aquatic centre has been modernized and expanded. An eight year sponsorship agreement with Genesis Energy will help offset annual maintenance costs. The project also attracted a \$250,000 grant from BayTrust.

MANGAKINO

Mangakino is gearing up to celebrate its 60th anniversary in October. A number of events are being planned in the lead up to the anniversary celebrations. For further information contact the Council office at Mangakino 07 882 8700.

RIFLE RANGE ROAD FOOTPATH UPGRADE

The footpath in front of a popular block of shops on Rifle Range Road in Taupo has been upgraded as part of a joint initiative by Council and shopkeepers in the area. The footpath outside the shopping centre has been widened and cobbled. A bike rack is also being installed. A blister island is being constructed between the car-park and Rifle Range Road to improve traffic safety. The work is being partly funded by the owner of the block of shops.

WAKEMAN ROAD EXTENSION

An extension to Wakeman Road that will provide alternative traffic access to the western end of Acacia Bay is due for completion by the end of June. The 1.1 kilometre extension runs from the end of Wakeman Road linking with Acacia Bay Road at the western end of Acacia Bay.