



**A** Māori stone tool that spent several decades in Taupō has been returned to its home in Rakiura (Stewart Island).

The 30cm long toki or adze was brought to Taupō Museum in 1979 to be put on display. It had belonged to resident Alice Nelson, whose husband David's great grandfather acquired it while living in Stewart Island in the late 1800s.

Museum Māori collections curator Bernise Williams said the adze was believed to be pre-European. It was made from Riverton argillite and was used to hollow logs to build waka. "We've really benefited from having this incredible Māori artefact in the museum, but it's now time for it to return home for another community and its visitors to enjoy," she said.

The adze had been on display in the Tūwharetoa gallery in the past.

When Mrs Nelson gave the adze to the museum, it was under a long-term loan agreement so, when she died in 1995, her children Mason Nelson and Beth Okeby became its joint owners. Mr Nelson wanted the adze to be returned to Stewart Island should it ever be removed from display and the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Gallery Governance Group agreed.

The adze was blessed with karakia before leaving Taupō Museum and a small informal hand over was organised by Stewart Island Māori liaison representative Phillip Smith and Stewart Island Museum staff.

Mrs Williams said the hand over was a success and it was great to be able to contribute to Stewart Island Museum. "They were really thankful for the repatriation and pleased to have a new addition to their Taonga Māori collection," she said. "It's great we were able to help them regain a little piece of their history."

## BUSINESS AS USUAL



**W**hat a busy couple of weeks it has been.

On Monday I was honoured to address the hundreds of people that turned out to the Anzac Day Civic Service.

Every year there is a large crowd who turn out to pay their respects to our fallen servicemen and women and it is always fantastic to see people from all four corners of the district unite for what truly is a community event.

It has been great to see the district buzzing again these school holidays off the back of what was a big summer for our retailers.

The latest Marketview report commissioned by the council said there was more than \$160 million spent over 3.2 million electronic transactions in the district over the quarter. There were significant increases in spending in Mangakino (up 27.1 per cent) and in Turangi (up 9.8 per cent), with out-of-town shoppers contributing \$92.2 million to the district's economy.

While there are always peaks and troughs in the retail sector, the report certainly confirms tourism is a significant contributor to the economy. As a council we have a strong focus on economic development and this is just one of the tools we can use to offer evidence to anyone wanting to come and set up business here.

This week we bid farewell to council chief executive Rob Williams. Rob has led the council team for the past nine years and has instigated a lot of positive change over that time. We certainly wish him well in his new job as the chief executive of Thames-Coromandel District Council.

We plan to begin the recruitment process for the chief executive position as soon as possible. In the meantime, policy and operations group manager Gareth Green will step into the role to help ensure a smooth transition. I know the hard working team at the council will do their bit to ensure it's business as usual until an appointment is made.

Before I sign off I must acknowledge the 220 golfers and their partners and supporters who have been in town for the past week for the annual New Zealand Maori Golf tournament. The Tauhara and Centennial courses have been buzzing all week with talented sportsmen and women. I hope you enjoyed your time here and we see you again soon.

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz • 07 3760899

## What's on?

- Until May 2** Rah de Rah de Rah exhibition by Dali Susanto, Taupō Museum
- May 6-7** North Island Masters' Swimming Championships, AC Baths
- From May 7** Enclose, Enfold, Envelop Fibres Unlimited exhibition, Taupō Museum

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

## TAUPŌ MUSEUM RETURNS MĀORI ARTEFACT TO ITS HOME

## BUILDING TAKING OFF IN TAUPŌ DISTRICT

There's been a lot of building going on in the Taupō District lately – and now we know why!

There has been a lot of discussion lately around the 'Auckland halo effect' – where regions outside of Auckland start seeing increased market activity as Aucklanders look to buy outside the city. This has in part been prompted by rising house prices in Auckland.

Consents and regulatory manager Scott Devonport said the Taupō property market was benefiting from the Auckland halo effect and it was good news.

Since the start of the year there's been a marked increase in the number of building consents issued in the Taupō District.

Scott said the team had been busy with consents and it showed no sign of slowing.

From January to March this year, 214 building consents were processed – up from 172 during the same period the previous year.

"There's a lot of building going on in our district – that's a huge number for a relatively small population," he said.

The number of houses being built was also increasing, he said. From January to March, 62 new houses had been built, compared to 41 during the same period last year.



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## STORMWATER FILTERING DEVICE WORK TO START

Protecting our natural environment is important to us at the council – that's why we're installing a new device to help keep our lake even cleaner.

The device will work alongside the Enviropods already installed in our drains which filter out the large objects like litter. The new lakefront device will prevent smaller contaminants like sediment, oil and debris from entering the lake.

Starting Monday, the device will be installed near the Lake Taupō Hole in One Challenge.

Water that flows down from between Ruapehu and Titiraupenga streets will go through the underground device, which uses a vortex to separate and remove contaminants.

Asset manager of stormwater and solid waste Brent Aitken said the location was chosen because it was a high traffic area which creates a lot of debris.

"This device will stop much of that debris from getting to our pristine lake, which is really important for our environment," he said.

The devices have been budgeted for in the Long-term Plan 2015-2025 as part of the council's commitment to looking after the environment.

Taupō drainage company E and J Contractors will be installing the device.



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

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)



Mayor David Trewavas, Dep Mayor Barry Hickling, Cr John Boddy, Cr Bernhard Chrustowski, Cr Rosie Harvey, Cr Rosanne Jollands, Cr Anna Park, Cr John Williamson, Cr Zane Cozens, Cr Maggie Stewart, Cr Kirsty Trueman