



BUSY INTERSECTION MARKED FOR UPGRADE



Work to revamp the busy lakefront intersection of Roberts and Ruapehu streets is set to begin next month.

The intersection is an important entry point into town and serves as the gateway from the lakefront to the town centre.

It is the latest intersection to be marked for an upgrade after three were completed in 2015: Tamamutu and Gascoigne streets, Tamamutu and Ruapehu streets and Tongariro and Horomatangi streets.

All of these intersections now have new, modern

gardens, improved visibility and better mobility access.

The new gardens feature lower, less intrusive planted areas and a modern timber, stone and concrete design that helps ensure better visibility for motorists.

The work is being done to ensure our town centre looks good, helps address security concerns around overgrown vegetation and aims to encourage people to linger longer in the area.

The work will be scheduled to begin after the Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand event takes place in March and will take up to eight weeks.

FIRST MEETING TO KICK OFF THE YEAR



We're back into it!

Our first council meeting of the year took place on Tuesday with a number of important items on the agenda.

We received a petition on the topic of erosion in Kuratau and Omori as well as a petition to keep Kinloch Lakefront Reserve open to vehicles.

Council staff have now been asked to bring back an assessment of the proposals presented to the Council

by the Kinloch Action Group which was formed after a December decision was made to close the reserve to vehicles once alternative car parking was created. This assessment will include costings and how any work could be funded, alongside a plan showing what the area would look like if it was closed to vehicles. The reserve will remain open to vehicles until further decisions are made in the near future.

The community will also get their say on freedom camping next week after we approved a draft bylaw to go out to the community for consultation. This draft bylaw includes 15 proposed sites around the Taupō District where freedom camping will be permitted. We want to ensure the community is comfortable with where camping is taking place while ensuring visitors continue to have a good freedom camping experience within our district.

Make sure you have your say when consultation opens next Friday.

Council often consults with the community to get feedback before finalising a range of bylaws and plans. This is a great way to get involved in decisions that affect you and your family. Keep an eye on our website, on social media and here in *Connect* to find out more.

We'll continue to live stream all Council meetings this year so check out taupo.govt.nz if you can't make it along in person. A schedule of meetings is also available on our website and these kick off at 2pm usually on the last Tuesday of each month. We'd love to see you there.

Mayor David Trewavas > dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

» What's on?

- 11-12 Feb Antique and Collectors' Fair, Great Lake Centre
- 11-12 Feb The Gypsy Extravaganza, Tongariro North Domain
- 12 Feb Sovereign Tri Series Kinloch, Kinloch Domain
- 16 Feb Quiz Night, Taupō Library
- 17 Feb New Zealand Drift Matsuri, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- Until 13 Mar Harry's Friends Too exhibition, Taupō Museum
- Until 20 Mar If you go down to the woods today exhibition, Taupō Museum

For more information on Taupō District events visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com

LIBRARY USERS WON'T BE CAUGHT SHORT



We've got some good news for Taupō Library users! We're upgrading the toilet facilities at the library and a shiny new loo will soon be available for use.

The work is scheduled for March and should take about six weeks.

While the toilet is being upgraded, those using the library will be able to use the Superloo for free. Handily located only a short stroll from the library near the traffic lights, the Superloo was one of the first user-pays facilities to be developed specifically for travellers, but is also used by the general public. As well as standard toilets, the Superloo has Asian toilets and a bidet, as well as showers, lockers and towels for hire.

If you're at the library when nature calls, simply have a chat to a library staff member and they'll give you a voucher to use at the toilets at the Superloo for free.

If you'd like to check out the award-winning Superloo but aren't a library member, it only costs 50 cents to use a toilet.

CHECKING OUT MANGAKINO'S PIPES



Making sure our infrastructure is up to scratch is really important, and that's why we're doing some work to look after Mangakino's pipes.

Our team will soon be inspecting Mangakino's underground wastewater pipelines by flushing them with water and using cameras to see if there are any blockages or cracks in the pipes.

To do this we need to access manholes, and many of these are found within people's properties. If manholes are located under houses or in gardens, we may need to gain access to these and residents might notice the odd footprint, some disturbed earth or fluorescent paint used for marking.

Work will take place between now and April, and we will work as quickly as possible to ensure disruption is minimal. If there are any reasons why we might not be able to get to any manholes – such as dogs that might be wary of strangers, garden sheds or locked gates – please give us a call so we can work out the best way to access these.

To find out more, call us on 0800 ASK TDC (0800 275 832).