



## TRANSFORMING OUR DISTRICT WITH CHORUS

For local artist Sue Graham, to be asked to paint a Chorus telecommunications box was a chance to delve into the things she loves about Taupō and her relationship with her beloved area of Waitahanui.

Chorus, in partnership with Keep New Zealand Beautiful, is aiming to paint our community beautiful across New Zealand. If a telecommunications box has been tagged, or could do with a make-over, the local council is contacted and a plan is made to get it painted. Locally, Sue Graham, via Taupō District Council, has done just that.

Sue's husband Robbie was involved in the project by masking and undercoating the transformer box, getting it prepared for painting. Sue's stunning work is a collection of pictures, calling on different parts of our region, particularly Waitahanui, where it is located on State Highway One.

The depth of the piece is evident as Sue depicts more

than one scene around the box, as it backs onto Te Kura O Waitahanui, so the local students get to enjoy the east-facing portrait of the Waitahanui Stream.

With extra area to paint, comes more work with it taking many drafts on paper to get it just as she wanted it.

"I would continually change the paintings as I went. Leaving them for a while, coming back to them, adding elements as it all evolved. As much as it seems I'm fussy, I really wanted to be happy with the finished composition before applying it to the box," says Sue.

Once painting finished, Robbie got the last say in completing the box by adding an anti-graffiti coating for longevity and protection.

It doesn't stop here however, as Chorus have again contacted Sue, via Council, to do another one.

Any artists in the district keen to get involved can email [rprisk@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:rprisk@taupo.govt.nz) at Taupō District Council for further information.



## ROAD SAFETY WEEK

This week is Road Safety week in New Zealand.

The theme this year is seat belts and distractions, with key messages based around the fact we have a large number of motorists using their mobile phones while driving, despite many safety messages and penalties for drivers surrounding their use.

This is a prime example of one of the many distractions road-users face, drawing attention off the road.

In addition to this, seat-belt use from drivers remains a practice that some have not included in their daily driving habits.

"We have really tried to get the message across this year to keep your eyes and mind on the road at all times" says our road safety co-ordinator Dianna Harrison.

"Thirty per cent of all fatal crashes involve people failing to wear a seatbelt. There's no excuse for not taking two seconds to make it click."

Closer to home, we have had Taupō District Council staff wearing road safety week t-shirts to raise awareness and have featured many messages on social and print media throughout the region, as well as other things.

We don't have to rely on one week of the year to educate ourselves. Resources are always available online from [brake.org.nz](http://brake.org.nz).

### » WHAT'S ON?

- Until May 14 3 Pot Colour, Taupō Museum
- May 16 Beyond the Barricade, Great Lake Centre
- May 17-18 Rally Car display, Tūwharetoa Street
- Until May 21 I Don't Know / Tell Me, Taupō Museum

For more information visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

### » ROAD CLOSURES

All road users are advised of the following road closure this weekend due to the Targa Rally car display:

» Tūwharetoa Street between Tongariro and Ruapehu Streets from 4pm, Thursday May 17 until 8.30am, Friday May 18.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Twenty-five new 'Kiwis' have been welcomed to the Taupō District.

Candidates from France, the Philippines, Cambodia, Australia and many more countries across the globe came together to take their oath to become New Zealand citizens at the Great Lake Centre.



Mayor David Trewavas



Deputy Mayor Rosie Harvey



John Boddy



Barry Hickling



Rosanne Jollands



Tangonui Kingi



Anna Park



Christine Rankin



Maggie Stewart



Kirsty Trueman



John Williamson