

## TRANSFORMATION OF TAUPŌ TOWN CENTRE UNDERWAY

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF the Taupo Town Centre is now underway, with the redevelopment of the intersection of Ruapehu and Tuwharetoa Streets.**

As part of this, the end of Tuwharetoa Street outside Number One Shoes and Farmers Home Store has been closed, to ensure the health and safety of the community and contractors working in the area for the next eight weeks. Detours are in place, with access to the McDonalds Drive Thru provided for from Titiraupenga Street. A turning bay has been provided at the end where the road is closed for vehicles to safely U-turn.

The work involves the realignment of each corner to improve health and safety and sight lines, repaving, curved seating and new planting. Once that side of the redevelopment is complete, contractors will begin work on the opposite side of the intersection.

Chief executive Gareth Green said staff were working with businesses and retailers to minimise disruption where possible and would continue to review what was in place as needed.

"The contractor has been asked to ensure any disruption to customer access is kept at a minimum and to ensure safe alternative pedestrian routes are provided. Where possible any demolition work will take place between 4pm and 10pm to avoid disruption."



The transformation project will be undertaken in four phases and aims to 'transform our public places into people spaces to drive economic development'. This first phase will see the redevelopment of the three CBD intersections. The other two are Gascoigne and Paora Hapi Streets and Ruapehu and Horomatangi Streets, with dates still to be confirmed. The entire project is expected to take around two years to complete.

The project attracted \$20 million worth of funding from the Government under its 'shovel ready project' initiative and would be a 'game changer' for the central business district, Mr Green said.

For more information on the project, head to [taupo.govt.nz/projects](http://taupo.govt.nz/projects).

**CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME AND CREATIVE TAUPŌ GRANTS APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

**creative nz**  
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

## IT'S TIME TO GET CREATIVE!

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS and creative groups in the Taupo District – do you have a stand-out idea for an arts or creative cultural project?**

If you'd like a financial kick-start to help turn your idea into reality, applications for the Creative Communities Scheme and Creative Taupo Grant are now open.

Applications close on Friday, August 28.

Find out more and apply online at: [bit.ly/TDC-community-grants](http://bit.ly/TDC-community-grants).

## TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS COMING TO THE MUSEUM THIS WEEKEND



**KEEP YOUR EYES out for two new exhibitions at the museum from this Saturday August 15, both featuring Whanganui artists.**

The Museum's main gallery will feature abstract works from Dan Mills as part of his exhibition 'Footprint of a Working Artist'.

A self-confessed 'emotional and intuitive' artist, Dan's paintings are reactive, as opposed to planned. He works on several paintings at a time, and they all start in a 'frenzy of paint'.

At the same time, the Museum's Niven Room will feature an exhibition by fellow Whanganui artist Vanessa Wairata Edwards.

Vanessa's exhibition - 'Social Amnesia' - explores New Zealand's colonial past through drypoint print and sculpture artworks.

The title is based on how a group of society can 'forget' or push aside hurts from the past, a collective forgetting of facts or events.

Dan's exhibition runs August 15 – September 21, with Vanessa's August 15 – September 14 so come and check them out when you can!

## 2022 IRONMAN 70.3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMING TO TOWN

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT MAYOR David Trewavas has welcomed the announcement that the district will host the 2022 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships.**

Taupo District was originally set to host the 2020 edition of the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship on November 28-29, prior to the event cancellation due to the ongoing and widespread impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Trewavas said he was thrilled to see the district secure the world championship event which will be held

on December 10-11, 2022.

"We are ecstatic that as the home of IRONMAN in New Zealand we have been able to work with IRONMAN to secure the event for 2022," he said.

"We had already laid some solid foundations in preparing to host the world's top triathletes and this additional time will allow us to offer an extremely polished event that will showcase both the Taupo District and New Zealand to the rest of the world."



## HUKA FALLS ROAD FOOTPATH ON THE HOME STRETCH

**THE RECENT STRETCH of fine weather has seen good progress made on the new Huka Falls Road footpath by local contractor Harden Up.**

All work has been completed on the eastern side of the road and the contractor is now constructing the footpath on the eastern side.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the footpath is going to be an asset for visitors and locals alike and the project is running to schedule.

"This is going to really improve pedestrian access to the Falls and make it a lot safer as well," he said.

"We are now over halfway through the project, with just some minor finishing works to be carried out on the eastern side, and are on track to have everything completed by the end of September in time for daylight savings, so walkers will soon be able to enjoy the new pathway."



**The first rates instalment for the 2020/21 year is due by Thursday, August 20.**

Head to [taupo.govt.nz/rates](http://taupo.govt.nz/rates) to find out more.

