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COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 26 JULY 2019



NORTHERN GATEWAY INTO TOWN – THE LIGHTS ARE ON!

THE NEW TRAFFIC signals are now operational at the intersection of Wairakei Drive and Norman Smith Street. The new intersection layout includes both pedestrian and cycle crossings and two right-turning lanes from Norman Smith Street. The northern entry to the control gate bridge also caters for heavy peak-time traffic with two lanes, which merge at the entry of the bridge. Head of operations Kevin Strongman said the intersection flow would improve over time as road users got used to the new layout.

“At the moment the extra right turning lane out of Norman Smith is largely not being used, so we have digital signage alerting people to use the two lanes to allow more traffic through faster,” he said. The two lanes allowed more vehicles to pass through the intersection during each green light phase, particularly at peak times, he said. Please remember to drive with extra care, patience and courtesy and be aware of others while we all get used to the new lights.



NEW SEWER LINE CONNECTION COMPLETED

A NEW SECTION of sewer line was connected on the lakefront this week with continued positive support in water conservation making the repair that much easier. The wastewater main was badly damaged on July 2 after a water main broke on Lake Terrace which caused the footpath to collapse onto the wastewater main. Following that initial break, contractors and council staff have worked tirelessly to remedy the issues. This key part of the project included installation of a new line to replace the broken area. Efforts to reduce water over a 24-hour period between noon Tuesday July 23 and noon on Wednesday, July 24 were heeded, with the new line ‘tapped-in’ during this time. A big thanks to all who avoided using washing machines, baths and dishwashers, those who took shorter showers or took other water saving measures to ensure our contractors got the task finished quickly and easily. We are also taking the opportunity to install another stormwater separator at the site in the coming weeks, in line with a district-wide initiative to install these in Turangi, Lake Terrace and in other lakefront areas. The device, called a Downstream Defender, uses centrifugal force to ‘spin-out’ impurities so they don’t reach our waterways. This includes litter from stormwater drains, silt, oil and sediment. The repairs to our wastewater network are a major job for the team and we really appreciate everyone’s support!

TOP TECHNOLOGY USED ON CROWN PARK PROJECT



TOP LEVEL TECHNOLOGY has been implemented to gauge the extent of the damage caused by the subsidence in the Crown Road area earlier this month. Contractors came in to map the fissure that went from Invergarry Road into the Crown Park sports field using ground penetrating radar (GPR). Parks operations supervisor Kieran Smith said there were undulations and gaps in the surface. “The radar was able to map a very accurate picture of the fissure, which enabled us to reinstate the turf quickly,” he said. The fissure itself was approximately 60 metres long and was generally 250mm in diameter, widening up at around 50 metres and become a larger 400mm void. The reinstatement involved filling the fissure and smoothing out any imperfections. This was completed by two of our parks and reserves staff and two local contractors. Work continues on Crown Road and this will remain closed until further notice.

Pictured: Crown Park repair underway following the completion of the radar assessment.

ANIMAL EXPERTISE FOR TURANGI

TURANGI RESIDENTS WILL have live access to our animal compliance team from next month, with local microchipping available monthly from August 30. The new initiative will see our compliance team available in Turangi on the last Friday of each month. Pound compliance officer Craig O’Leary said the demand for the service in Turangi has now reached the stage that we can expand the service to Turangi, by using the Turangi service centre as a base to microchip dogs. Previously dog owners would have to travel to the Taupō Pound or visit a local veterinarian. “Along with myself providing a service, we will eventually have VetEnt and Animal Care Turangi there to provide advice and other services,” he said. To take advantage of these visits, please call or drop in to our Turangi office to book a time or to find out more.

» WHAT'S ON?

- Jul 27 Wairakei Drive Community Planting Day, Wairakei
- Until Aug 12 CATalogue Exhibition, Taupō Museum

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