



Hard work pays off for Māori collections curator

This week is Māori Language Week – Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – and we spoke to the staff member responsible for looking after some of our most precious Māori artefacts and heritage.

Ten years ago, mum of two Bernise Williams packed up her life in Taupō and moved to Gisborne to follow her dream of studying Māori visual arts.

It was a brave decision for Bernise, who is now the Māori collections curator at Taupō Museum.

“It’s something I’d always wanted to do,” she said. “I’d never even

been to Gisborne before and wanted to understand more about Māori art.”

For the next five years, she studied under the tutelage of some of New Zealand’s most revered and recognised Māori artists at Toihoukura School of Māori Visual Arts.

These included Steve Gibbs and Derek Lardelli, internationally recognised tā moko artist and one of those credited with the revival of the art.

“I’d only seen them on television – I liked how they encouraged all types of mediums including kapa haka, moteatea and marae restoration,” she said. “They were always taking their students work out into the public space, exhibiting nationally and internationally.”

When she finished she returned to Taupō and came across her perfect job – the Māori collections curator at Taupō Museum.

“While I was studying at Toihoukura, we came and did a Matariki group exhibition here which attracted a lot of people,” she said.

These days Bernise is surrounded by art and Māori artefacts and likes being able to occasionally contribute to exhibitions at the museum. She has a piece in the current Matariki exhibition, Te Hau – The Wind.

She even gets to use her skills outside of the museum, putting her talents to good use with the odd council project, including the recent refurbishment of the AC Baths and Taupō Events Centre sign.



Bernise drew the kowhaiwai on the poles holding up the sign with another local artist, Patrick Grey.

“I use some kowhaiwai patterns in my artwork and we used that particular pattern a lot in painting and tā moko at Toihoukura,” she said.

The pattern is of mangopare or hammerhead shark, which is a symbol of strength.

You can see Bernise’s work at Taupō Museum or check out the newly painted poles of the AC Baths and Events Centre sign on the corner of Spa Road and AC Baths Avenue.



Creative funding for our district's arts groups

Do you have a community-based arts activity planned that would benefit from some funding?

Funding applications for the Creative Communities scheme are now open. The aim of the scheme is to increase participation in the arts for Kiwis at a local level.

Previous recipients include a diverse range of groups and organisations, including Taupō Art Connection, Centre Stage Taupō, Tongariro and Mangakino Area schools, Safe Turangi, and Taupō Society of Ballet and Dance. Grants have supported the painting of murals, festivals, exhibitions, dancing and singing lessons and a variety of other arts activities.

Creative Taupō grants are now also open for applications. These grants are for arts projects in Taupō and can cover literature, dance, music, new media, visual arts, theatre, crafts or festivals. Both schemes have different criteria.

You can read more and get your application in at www.taupo.govt.nz.

Applications close Friday, August 28 at 5pm.

Broadband could get faster...

The district’s broadband capabilities and mobile phone coverage could improve dramatically if it is chosen for the next roll out of the Government’s Ultrafast Broadband, Rural Broadband and Mobile Black Spots initiatives.

We made an application for improvement of these services in our district when central Government announced additional funding for the initiatives. Our submission was based on the feedback we received through a survey of the community about broadband availability and speeds and black spots in our district. We identified a number of mobile black spots that could be life-saving, enhancing emergency response on state highways and improving communications for isolated communities.

We want to improve our Civil Defence capabilities across the entire district, and we believe minimising mobile black spots would benefit us hugely.

The areas we have asked to be considered include areas of state highways 1, 5, 32, 41 and 47. All are on popular tourist routes and cover parts of Atiamuri, Waitahanui, Hatepe Hill, Tahorakuri Forest, Tauranga-Taupo, Motuoapa and Turangi.

We have recommended Turangi, Mangakino, Kinloch and Mapara Road and surrounds for Ultrafast Broadband and for the Rural Broadband initiative, we have asked for Mapara Road, Broadlands and River roads, Tirohanga, part of State Highway 5 and part of State Highway 32 to be considered.

Council’s ICT operations manager Kylee Mills said thousands of residents and visitors could benefit if the district was chosen.

“We are keen to ensure residents and businesses in our district have access to the most up-to-date technology available,” she said.

To continue with the application, the Government now requires us to develop a plan to show how the initiatives will be used in our district, should we be selected. This is the next step and is due to be submitted by us in September. You can view our application, including maps, on our website at www.taupo.govt.nz.



Free funding expo for charitable organisations

Do you want to know how to access funding, or how to turn your charitable organisation’s ideas into a profit? We have the expo for you!

We are holding a funding expo between 9am and 3.30pm on Thursday, August 13 at the Great Lake Centre to talk to the community about the issues around funding.

Speakers will cover topics like social enterprise, collaborating with other agencies, changes in the funding sector that might affect charitable groups or organisations, and a whole range of other topics.

The expo is for businesses, schools, charities, non-profit groups and anyone else who wants to find better ways to do business, and is free to attend.

Register your interest with community projects officer Veronica King at vkjng@taupo.govt.nz or on 07 377 0811.

What's on

- Until 2 Aug Te Hau – The Wind exhibition, Taupō Museum
- 27 Jul-2 Aug Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week)
- 1 Aug Hoka One One Taupō Marathon, Taupō
- 8 Aug The Global Run – Team Taupō, Taupō Events Centre
- 9 Aug Greening Taupō Community Planting Day, Oruanui Road
- 13 Aug Community Enterprise and Funding Expo, Great Lake Centre

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

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to 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