



## Māori Language Week winners celebrate

Taupō's town centre was buzzing with activity for Māori Language Week – Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – with kapa haka, traditional Māori fare and plenty of te Reo.

The Café Wero (Café Challenge) was to encourage cafes to embrace te Reo and get the community excited about using the language.

Saluté Delicatessen won the supreme award for the combination of its amazing rewana bread, kawakawa and passionfruit sweet treats, and providing kapa haka as lunch time entertainment. Saluté also won the best signature dish award for its rewana bread.

Other winners included Replete Café and Store for best customer greeting, Friends café for best te Reo-themed blackboard and McCafé Taupō for their enthusiastic participation.

Strategic relationships manager Dominic Bowden said the independent judges said it was a close race, but Saluté edged its way to the top with its impressive traditional Māori fare with a unique twist.

"Saluté really went the extra mile – it was evident they were committed to promoting te Reo during the week, and they did a fantastic job," he said.

Owner of Saluté Joan McBeath was honoured to receive the top prize and attributed the success to her staff.

"It's all up to the staff – they did the most amazing job and full credit goes to Jo and the team," she said. "I feel really honoured and pleased we entered and got behind the whole spirit of te Reo week.

My staff really got behind it and it's just so cool to see them rewarded." She said it was a fantastic community initiative and a great way to bring te Reo into local businesses for the week.



Mayor David Trewavas with Saluté owner Joan McBeath and Manager Jo Kalolo (right).

### Carving for council

We hosted local carver Tautahanga Rameka during Te Wiki o te Māori while he created a whakairo (wood carving). The carving, now displayed in the reception of our Lake Terrace office, is called Manaia. It is a guardian which represents leadership, good decision making and moving forward. It also represents our lake, the many rivers that flow into it and the mountains where the rivers originate from. It is to inspire and remind us that all of our work combined contributes to the big ideas and decisions that are made for this community.



## A great place to live, work and play

In our new Long Term Plan's district strategy, we have made no secret that we think the Taupō District is a great place to live and we want to keep it that way.

One of the big challenges we faced while planning for the next 10 years was striking a balance between limiting the impact of our project costs on rates and ensuring our district retains its vibrancy and appeal. We want to continue to encourage growth and to do that we can't afford to stand still. After all, we have our district's future to think about.

Communities need to have vibrant, attractive, liveable places to retain and attract a skilled and happy workforce. Taupō is blessed with outstanding natural assets but they need to be balanced with a quality urban environment. Good community infrastructure along with a broad range of commercial activity all contribute to what is sometimes referred to as the "look and feel" of the community. This balance of natural assets with a good urban feel particularly focused around a top quality town centre is important when it comes to retaining our people and attracting new permanent residents plus encouraging visitors to stay longer in our district.

Last year we completed the final stage of the three stage Turangi revitalisation project and I am sure we all agree it looks fantastic. This week we continue talking to the people of Mangakino about their vision for the town, following the building of a fantastic skate-park last year, and work has begun in Taupō to makeover three busy intersections to improve both safety and their visual appeal.

We want our towns to be places where people want to spend their time. Having spent three decades in retail, I know how important it is to encourage people to 'linger longer' in the main centre of our towns. The longer people stay in an area the more likely they are to spend some money which in turn boosts the economy and that helps keeps people employed. We need to make sure the 'front window' is dressed to lure people in so to speak. The large volume of visitors we attract plays a key role in ensuring our tourism industry is sustainable.

So you see, we've definitely got the bigger picture in mind. I for one want to continue to live in a thriving and vibrant place where others find interest and inspiration, want to live, invest, work and play. We owe it to our residents, retailers and visitors to maintain what we already have and keep moving forward.

Mayor David Trewavas • dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz



Above: Work at the intersection of Ruapehu and Tamamutu streets this week involved cutting down large trees obstructing views.

Below: A concept drawing of what the intersection will look like from the Torpedo7 corner once work is complete.



## Intersection upgrade begins

Wondering what all the activity is at the intersection of Ruapehu and Tamamutu streets?

It's the refurbishment of the first of three major Taupō central business district intersections which are happening over the next few months.

The intersections will feature new, modern gardens and have improved visibility for motorists and pedestrians. The current gardens are about 20 years old and due for an upgrade.

Work on the Ruapehu and Tamamutu streets intersection began this week with the demolition of the old gardens. Following this, the main contractor, TR Construction, will be on site building the new gardens over five to six weeks.

When this is completed, two other intersections will follow at Gascoigne and Tamamutu streets and Tongariro and Tamamutu streets. Only one intersection is being worked on at a time so disruption is minimised.

Our staff are working closely with the retailers affected and keeping them updated on how the project is progressing. All shops are still accessible, but footpaths are reduced in some areas to make way for the work to be carried out.

Cones and signposts are around the sites to direct foot traffic and ensure the community is aware.

The new gardens will have lower planted areas and a modern design made out of timber, stone and concrete. Work is planned to be completed by Christmas.

## What's on

- 8 Aug The Global Run – Team Taupō, Taupō Events Centre
- 9 Aug Greening Taupō Community Planting Day, Oruanui Road
- 11 Aug Turangi Tongariro Community Board meeting, 1pm, Turangi Boardroom
- 13 Aug Community Enterprise and Funding Expo, Great Lake Centre

# For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)



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