



## Story maps: our projects in pictures

This week we launched a brand new tool that will allow us to keep you updated with what is happening with some of our projects through pictures.

Our first story map is on the work we are doing on the Great Lake Walkway and is available on our website or through our Facebook page.

The Great Lake Walkway stretches from the Lake Terrace water treatment plant to the yacht club on Ferry Road and is being refurbished to make it wheelchair and buggy-friendly. The path will be widened from its current 1.4 metres to 2.5 metres.

The old path is not wide enough to accommodate the growing number of people using it and is starting to deteriorate.

Contractors began work at the Ferry Road end last month and have now moved to the end by the water treatment plant. They are digging up pavers and pouring concrete each fine day between now and November 20, when work will pause to allow the Contact Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge to take place. They will resume work after the event, with the project expected to be completed by the end of the year.

We'd love to know what you think of our story map. Drop us a line at [communications@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:communications@taupo.govt.nz) or visit our Taupo District Council Facebook page to share your thoughts.



## Showcasing Mangakino

When I wrote this column I was in Sydney where our three year old son Tama is having three weeks of specialist therapy to help him learn to walk. Technology is a wonderful thing and I was kept informed of all council and community matters via phone, webcam, email (and Facebook!)



On a personal note, I wanted to thank all those in our district who have helped support Tama's journey. I can safely say my knowledge on special needs and disability was pretty minimal, but I have learnt so much over the last three years and have a greater respect for the challenges and struggles that those with a disability and their families face. I am fast learning the importance of disabled parking and accessibility in this busy city and I think we do pretty well here in the Taupō District.

The plans for the Mangakino town centre are looking great. I would like to thank the working group of locals and council staff who have spent time contributing to the design. They have tried their best to include elements that the community wanted while balancing our budget constraints. Also on the horizon for our district is the toilet upgrade at the Mangakino lake front. In previous community consultation, a new location for the toilets was discussed nearer the playground. The redevelopment plans for this area will be discussed at further hui and we welcome any feedback to council or by coming along to the advertised consultation meetings.

Mangakino Community Led Development Group recently hosted the Hon Louise Upston and Hon Jo Goodhew, who came to see the all the positive community development projects that have been successful in our area. We showed them the new visitor information penstock outside the new Little Helpers headquarters and discussed the Heritage Trail project, the popularity of the Waikato River Trails and the notable economic growth in the area. We visited a home that is part of the Warmer Homes insulation project and showcased our amazing new skate park.

Christmas is just around the corner! The Mangakino Christmas Parade is on Sunday, December 6 and the annual Christmas Hayride at Tirohanga is on Friday, December 11. I wish you all safe and happy holidays.

Kirsty

Councillor Kirsty Trueman • [ktrueman@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:ktrueman@taupo.govt.nz)

## Find out if you can get a rates rebate

Are you eligible for a rates rebate? Now is the time to apply. The rates rebate scheme is in place to provide a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates.

The threshold has been increased for the 2015/16 year to \$24,440, so if you weren't eligible in the past, you may be now. You could qualify for up to \$610 to be credited to your rates bill.

Even if you earn more than the threshold, you could still be eligible. You can check by visiting [www.ratesrebates.govt.nz](http://www.ratesrebates.govt.nz) and using the online calculator.

You can pick up a rates rebate form from any of our offices, or download one from the Department of Internal Affairs website.



When submitting your application, make sure you bring:

- A fully completed application form. When you bring it in, our staff will witness the declaration being signed, check the form is completed correctly and sign it as an authorised person.
- Proof of income summary from WINZ or an employer and details of any other income including bank interest, share earnings and income from other sources.
- Your Taupō District Council and Waikato Regional Council rates totals.

You can apply once a year after 1 July. The closing date each year for applications is June 30.

## Third and final intersection demolition complete



The countdown is on to the completion of the revamp of three town centre intersections, which have been getting a makeover in the last few months.

Work is about to begin on the third and final intersection at

Tongariro and Tamamutu streets.

Demolition is now complete and contractors will be coming in next week to build the new gardens.

With all three intersections, the gardens and paving are being upgraded to improve visibility and safety and make them more attractive and user-friendly.

At Tongariro and Tamamutu Streets, contractors are also improving mobility access to the footpath from the mobility car park outside ANZ. Two trees at the intersection – a maple and a kowhai tree – are being kept, and low, native plants will go in around them.

The intersection of Ruapehu and Tamamutu streets has been completed, with gardens planted out last month, and work is continuing at the intersection of Gascoigne and Tamamutu streets. Construction work at this intersection is expected to be completed by the end of next week. Once the gardens in all corners have been constructed, planting will be carried out.

All three are expected to be finished by late November, before the Contact Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge.

## What's on

- 6 Nov Starlight Cinema Fireworks and Laser Extravaganza, Owen Delany Park
- 10 Nov Turangi Tongariro Community Board meeting, 1pm, Turangi Boardroom
- 13 Nov Taupō District Sports Awards, Great Lake Centre
- Until 30 Nov Art From a Different View, Taupō Museum

# 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)

