



GREEN LIGHT FOR PATH AT WHAREWAKA



It'll be a smooth and safe journey along the lakefront between Wharewaka Point and Five Mile Bay later this year with the construction of a shared path.

There is currently a gap in the shared path between the two locations, and councillors approved the project at their meeting last month. The concrete path will be 2.5 metres wide and cater to both pedestrians and cyclists. It will run through the area that is currently gravel and used as

an accessway for vehicles and pedestrians. A sealed road and car park will also be built, and a timber fence installed to separate vehicles and pedestrians to make it safer.

To allow preparation work to take place, the vehicle access to the lakefront at Wharewaka Point is currently closed. Pedestrians and cyclists are still able to access the area. The work will be carried out over winter and is expected to be completed in time for summer.

RURAL FIREFIGHTING NOT JUST FOR THE BOYS

Jen Philpott is a busy lady – juggling work as a lifeguard at the AC Baths, looking after her two children, part-time study and volunteering for the rural fire team - but she wouldn't have it any other way!

"Everyone has to do their bit for the community. I've lived here for my whole life so I think it's really important to help out. It's what makes the Taupō District such a great place to live."

So why did she choose to become a rural fire volunteer?

"I had thought about it for a long time. We have some incredible bush in the Taupō District. It takes native trees such a long time to grow so it's really important we take care of them. We need to make sure it is here for our children. It's an awesome way to help the community and there's a bit of an adrenaline rush too."

Her family and work place have been really supportive. "My kids love it! They love telling people their mum fights fires. They're happy to stay with other people if I have a call out. My husband works in the bush so he knows how valuable it is."

Being the only female member of the crew, you'd expect she might feel a bit left out, but the experience has been quite the opposite.

"The boys are great. They made me feel at ease and were really supportive of me from the start. I'd definitely encourage other women who are thinking of it to join. You learn a lot, have a good laugh with the team and you are very well looked after."

If you are interested in volunteering visit www.taupo.govt.nz/ruralfire or contact rural fire manager Roger Nelson on 07 376 0899 or rnelson@taupo.govt.nz.



SPONSORSHIP BOOST FOR RURAL FIRE FORCE

The Southern Lake Taupō Volunteer Rural Fire Force is benefitting to the tune of \$15,000 courtesy of sponsorship from The Lines Company.

The funding will be used for training and equipment costs in support of the service the force provides for the south-western bays communities. It was applied for through The Lines Company's sponsorship programme that has criteria for assisting community initiatives in rural areas.

Community risk, relations and support group manager Brian Fox said the contribution would make a positive difference to the speed at which training could happen.

"It takes a lot of effort, time and commitment from a lot of people to enable a volunteer rural fire force to run effectively, and it's fantastic The Lines Company is helping to make it happen."

The Lines Company chief customer officer Elizabeth Anglesey said the company was keen to support groups and organisations that supported their customers.

"We welcome the opportunity to assist with protecting the south western bays by helping to fund the Southern Lake Taupō Volunteer Rural Fire Force."

This was the second time in two years The Lines Company had stepped up to help out with sponsorship in the Taupō District, assisting Civil Defence with a contribution to help fund a generator for use in an emergency in late 2014.

NEW BEGINNINGS



Gypsy Day is fast approaching – the time of year when we farewell some of our farming families and welcome others to our community. To all the new families settling in, we hope you enjoy all there is on offer in the Taupō District. One of our community groups, Mangakino Community Led Development (MCLD), is putting together a Mangakino and Whakamaru welcome pack with handy info for newbies.

There is something for everyone here! Biking or walking along the Waikato River Trails, fishing, boating, kayaking, waterskiing, wakeboarding on one of our gorgeous lakes, a well-equipped gym, the new skate park and playgrounds, a range of terrific dining outlets, a motocross track, and one of our jewels, the picturesque Mangakino Golf Course, to name just a few!

We have some wonderful volunteer organisations too including St John, Mangakino Volunteer Fire Brigade, school PTAs, Pouakani Marae Committee, Mangakino Family Services, the foodbank, our community garden, the Young Farmers group and the Tirohanga Settlers and Sports Association. There are also lots of clubs and sports teams, so don't be shy, get involved! It's a great way to get to know your neighbours!

The MCLD has another exciting project underway – the Mangakino and District Workforce Project. The "Step up, Stand Out" team has been contracted to strengthen pathways to work. They will be planning some open days and job expos. If you are a local business, they will likely be in touch to ask about your future staffing requirements to identify possible job or training opportunities for our local people. Keep an eye out in the local Dam City Advertiser for more information.

Special thanks goes out to Rob Williams for his service as chief executive of Taupō District Council for the last nine years. Rob has always been a great supporter of our Mangakino-Pouakani ward. I wish him all the best on his new role as chief executive of Thames-Coromandel District Council and you can all be rest assured he has in place a highly capable team of senior managers and staff to continue serving our district while we go through a robust recruitment process.

Kirsty

Cr Kirsty Trueman • ktrueman@taupo.govt.nz • 07 376 0899

What's on?

- 13-15 May NRM Three Day Event – Horse Trials, National Equestrian Centre
- 14 May Motorcycle Track Day, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 16 May The Ten Tenors – The Power of Ten, Great Lake Centre
- 18 May Beatlemania on Tour, Great Lake Centre
- 21 May Mini Drivers Fun Day, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 26 May 2degrees Comedy Convoy, 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

