



NEW LOOK WHAREWAKA OPENS TO THE COMMUNITY

Jack Waters only wanted one thing for his 91st birthday – to ride his bike down the new path between Wharewaka and Five Mile Bay.

Yesterday, his wish was granted.

The Wharewaka resident has been a long-time advocate of extending the path to connect the two suburbs and was thrilled when work began on the project earlier this year.

“I’ve been riding a bike all of my life and I now feel twice as alive as I normally feel when I get on a bike,” Jack said.

The new shared path, sealed road and parking area were opened to the community yesterday with a blessing and official cutting of the ribbon by Mayor David Trewavas.

Jack was there both to celebrate his birthday and experience the new path.

“It’s been a long time coming,” he said.

The area has undergone an impressive transformation over the last few months. There has been extensive landscaping, including rolling the bank to create a gentle slope down toward the path and lake. A low timber barrier separates vehicles and pedestrians along the path’s route.

Finishing touches are being added over the next few weeks, with the shared path and road now open. Temporary fencing is likely to come down soon, and native trees and shrubs will be planted in autumn next year.



CHECK YOUR POOL IS SAFE FOR SUMMER

If you’ve got a pool, you’ll know how fun it is to be able to cool off in the heat of summer. But it’s important to make sure your pool is safe for the upcoming holiday season to keep our children and community safe from drowning.

We want to increase public awareness of the dangers around pools, provide owners with information about how to keep their pools safe and to help them comply with the rules around pool safety.

Rules around the fencing of pools place obligations on both pool owners and councils to keep pools safe. While council staff are able to inspect pools to make sure owners are doing everything they can to make pools safe, consents and regulatory manager Scott Devonport said owners can do some easy checks to make sure your pool is safe.

“Is there anything leaning against your pool fence such as plant pots or chairs that children could climb up to get into the pool? Are all latches on pool gates sturdy and unable to be opened by children? Does your spa pool have a lockable lid? Now’s a great time to check everything is safe before summer really starts cranking. Remember, the same obligations around pool safety apply for temporary pools that people can buy from local retailers.”

Pools should also be registered with council, so if you have a pool that is not registered, or if you have any questions about your pool, please give our customer services team a call on 07 376 0693 to sort out registration and organise a time for the team to visit.

You can check out more information about owning a pool at www.taupo.govt.nz.

»» What's on?

- 16 Dec Christmas in the Park Turangi, Tongariro School
- 18 Dec Playday on Track, Yamaha Bikes, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 24 Dec Christmas in the Pool, AC Baths
- 30 Dec Interislander Summer Festival Taupō Races, Taupō Racecourse

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

NEW WATER SAFETY CAMPAIGN AIMED AT KEY DEMOGRAPHIC

Have you considered how to keep yourself, your family and the community safe around water this summer?

Young men die too frequently in our lakes and rivers, and this summer we want to stop that from happening.

Statistically, men are at a higher risk of drowning. In the year to date, of the 93 drownings recorded in New Zealand, 80 were male. That’s the reason behind our new water safety radio ads, which are part of a campaign to reduce drownings this summer.

The ads warn about the dangers of submerged rocks and mixing alcohol and water activities, while also promoting lake and river safety.

If you haven’t heard the ads yet, keep an ear out.

We know they’re not your standard run-of-the-mill advertisements but staying safe around water is something we are passionate about. These ads carry an important message, especially targetted at those most at risk.

