



## NEW ENTRANCE TO BOTANICAL GARDENS

Accessing Waipahihi Botanical Reserve is now much easier with the installation of a new gate thanks to a community collaboration.

We have been working with the Waipahihi Botanical Society, Department of Conservation and the community to have the gate installed instead of a fence that would have cut the Botanical Heights area off from the gardens.

The fence line has gradually been going up as part of the expanding residential development in the area and the gate is located at the current end of Botanical Heights Drive.

Resident Julie Wilding said she walked her dog through the gardens up to five days a week.

"It's all going to be housing up here, all these sections are sold, so there's going to be a lot more people interested in the gardens," she said. "As a resident, I'm so grateful that everyone involved has made it happen. We're thrilled about it."

Waipahihi Botanical Society chairman Graeme Robinson said volunteers had been working hard to improve the area around the access point from Botanical Heights.

"We've been tidying up debris and we'll be planting down here this winter," he said. "The development will continue right around our boundary so we want to make it a bit smarter."

Graeme said volunteers did all the maintenance of the 35 hectare site and it was great to see it respected and enjoyed.

"It's our garden and we get fun out of looking after it," he said. "We enjoy the public coming through and we notice people from all walks of life visiting."

DOC community ranger Amelia Willis said the organisation was keen to encourage more people to visit the gardens, which were on public conservation land.

"This is great for access and seeing how easy it is to work with everyone involved. The society is doing a great job."

Our commercial manager Flash Sandham was happy the council was able to facilitate the arrangement and enable better community access.

"This is a great example of how organisations within the community can collaborate for everyone's benefit."

## FULL STEAM AHEAD



On Tuesday, we will be asked to adopt the Annual Plan for the next financial year. This will be somewhat of a history-making occasion for us as a council as the plan includes last week's decision to build a new building to replace the Lake Terrace office.

We met last week to discuss the 260 submissions we received during consultation, and of those 74 per cent supported a new building. Councillors were also unanimous in their support for a replacement building and, given

a number of submissions suggested more investigation into potential sites, we are going to take some time investigating a few options before we make a decision on where it should be. As well as further exploring the existing site, we have asked staff to investigate a few sites in the Taupō CBD including the Heuheu Street car park, Tūwharetoa Street car park near McDonald's and the land where the Great Lake Centre and Taupō Library sit. We know that if we are going to take up car parking space we will need to replace it or provide more so that will be thrown into the mix too.

We'll also look at options for using private land in the CBD whether it be through lease or purchase and how it will be funded. My fellow councillors and I are mindful it will be a journey our community needs to be with us on to ensure the best outcome for the future.

During the consultation process we also sought people's views on increasing the amount of funding planned for Turangi's economic development trust Go Tongariro. We agreed to provide funding of \$20,000 for the next 12 months for the coordinator role as we are mindful an economic development strategy commissioned for Turangi is nearing completion and Go Tongariro, will be heavily involved in its implementation.

I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to make a submission on next year's plan. We know it takes time to but it certainly assists us with the decisions we make on behalf of our community.

We will keep you posted as things develop. As you can see, it is going to be a busy year!

**Mayor David Trewavas** » dtrewavas@taupo.govt.nz

## » What's on?

- 25 June Mid-winter Milk Warmer fundraiser, Waipahihi Botanical Reserve
- 13 July Miss Jean Batten, Great Lake Centre
- 14 July Firelight Celebration - Unison Light Trail, Tongariro South Domain
- 14 July Whisky and Jazz, Great Lake Centre
- 15 July Biggest Little Circus, Tongariro North Domain

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

## DOG EDUCATION FOR TAUPŌ DISTRICT CHILDREN

Taupō toddler Tane Ratcliffe is no stranger to dogs – he has one at home – but was still very enthusiastic about hanging out with one at his pre-school.

The nearly-three-year-old was one of a group of children from First Steps Abacus to host our compliance officer Marty Devonport to learn about how to safely act around dogs.

The council runs dog education classes for children at pre-schools and primary schools. It includes how to approach them, where best to pat them, what to do around puppies and what some of the danger signs are.

Children watch a short cartoon and then get hands on experience with Marty's dog, Skye, a 12-year-old Labrador.

The programme is offered around the district and has been well-received by parents, children and teachers.

First Steps Abacus centre manager Lesley French said having Marty come to visit was hugely beneficial. "Some of our tamariki don't have the opportunity to spend time around dogs," she said. "Marty did a fantastic job working with them, helping them develop their knowledge and confidence. We feel this is important as they need to understand how to be safe around dogs and this can be hard to teach if they don't know anyone with a dog."

Any primary or pre-schools interested in having a visit from Marty and Skye can email [info@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:info@taupo.govt.nz) or call us on 07 376 0899.

