



PHILIP KING CO-ORDINATING CULTURAL PRECINCT PROJECT

There's something about a familiar face. When it came to finding someone to project manage the new cultural precinct project, it was going to take more than a pretty one!

Enter Philip King, who some may recognise as previously being the harbourmaster here in Taupō. Philip worked in this position for nine years, right on the waters' edge of Lake Taupō, in the marina on Ferry Road.

Philip has been tasked with investigating the possibility of linking a number of areas together as part of the project, which began following the council looking for a new site for its office functions. The council identified the area by the Great Lake Centre on Story Place as its preferred office location and chose to develop a masterplan for the area to see what other opportunities could be capitalised on. These could possibly include the development of clear linkages to the marina area where Philip previously worked, a destination playground site, a civic administration building, a new museum, community spaces, and possibly more.

Philip has first-hand experience in the existing disconnect between the lake and the central business district.

"I was amazed by the number of times I had to explain where my office was while working as harbourmaster," he says.

"It's incredible how many visitors, and even locals don't know the area even exists."

This is just one part of a big project puzzle which has already started, with master planners being appointed within the next week.

"This project is a great opportunity to really having a defining cultural centre here in Taupō. We have the opportunity to have Ngāti Tūwharetoa history and culture interwoven with our volcanic area in the design," said Philip. "We are looking forward to talking with our community to help develop ideas, which may ultimately help guide and influence any decisions taken during this early planning phase."

The master planners are expected to start engaging with key stakeholders and the wider community early in July.



A REAL VIEW TO VERMICOMPOSTING

Did you know we have a vermicomposting site in View Road?

Bio-solids, otherwise known as organic matter recycled from sewerage, were initially taken from our Taupō treatment plants by a local farmer who had resource consent to spread it over his pasture. Once his consent expired, he decided not to renew it and left us with a decision of what to

do moving forward. The answer, after some initial stockpiling, was vermicomposting. After researching and eventually going to market to find a suitable contracting partner, the concept became a reality.

The use of millions of worms to break down solid waste, or vermicomposting, is nothing new. Here, bio-solids from the various Taupō treatment plants is transported to our land on View Road and processed by our wriggly little conservationists.

Vermicomposting has gained popularity in both industrial and domestic settings because, as compared with conventional composting, it provides a great way to treat organic wastes more quickly. Worms produce a manure, known as vermicast, which can be used as a nutrient-rich organic fertilizer and soil conditioner.

Assistant manager of water and wastewater Rich Kruse was a key driver behind the project.

"The key advantage of this type of biowaste conversion from a low capital investment is the reduced waste flow to landfill, with the ability to create the fertiliser an added bonus."

TAUPŌ WASTEWATER PIPE MAINTENANCE



In the on-going battle to protect our waterways from further spills, a lot of work has been progressing in the background with contractors completing pipe checks and manhole repairs over the past few months.

HERE IS A LOOK AT PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

- » 200km of pipes to check
- » 1268 pipes or 63.2km have been surveyed using sewer line rapid assessment tool (SLRAT) technology
- » In excess of 1470 manholes have been located, checked and cleaned
 - 735 require follow up work
 - 295 need to be raised to ground level
- » This equates to 35 percent of all wastewater manholes in the Taupō/Acacia Bay area
- » Of this 35 percent, 32 percent were cleaned with water-jetting and had obstructions removed

We are also launching a district-wide public education campaign to encourage people to do the right thing when it comes to flushing things down the toilet. Remember, if it's not paper, pee or poo, don't put it down the loo!

» WHAT'S ON?

- Jun 23 Table Tennis New Zealand Country Clubs Tournament, Taupō Events Centre
- Jun 23 Songs of the Sea, Great Lake Centre
- Until Jun 25 Still Playing with Fire, Taupō Museum
- Until Jun 25 Soul is Eternal, Taupō Museum

For more information visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com