



WAIORA HOUSE ASBESTOS REMOVAL UNDERWAY

Remedial work has begun in the main building of Waiora House to remove asbestos in the ceiling that was contaminating the air.

The building was evacuated last week after some air monitoring being undertaken returned elevated levels. This followed the successful removal of asbestos in the basement at the weekend. This is thought to have been due to deteriorating asbestos materials in the roof.

Swabs of all the offices were taken this week to further determine the extent of the contamination. It is estimated the removal of the asbestos will take 12-14 weeks.

An investigation into the lead up to the incident is being undertaken to help us develop a fuller picture about what happened and when. Tenants are being offered health monitoring if they are concerned about their health.

At an extraordinary meeting this week, Council approved

a budget of \$1 million to remediate the asbestos issue and for refurbishment works. A decision on the refurbishment will not be made until the extent of the examination is known.

We are continuing to work with tenants on alternative accommodation and what their privacy requirements are, if any.

In the meantime, they can all be contacted on these numbers:

- > Taupō Citizens Advice Bureau 0800 367 222
- > DHB Lactation Consultants 0800 525 372
- > Pregnancy Help (see their Facebook page)
- > Taupō Community Food Bank 07 377 1507
- > Taupō Women's Refuge Crisis Line 07 377 1055
- > Waiora House Manager 07 378 0953
- > Youth Service 0800 884 7782
- > Tipu Ora 0800 348 2400

Updates will be available at taupo.govt.nz or on the council's Facebook page.



This week, in our profiles of your elected representatives, is Taupō-Kaingaroa Ward Councillor Barry Hickling.



Local government has been Barry Hickling's life. He first started working in parks and reserves at the tender age of 15, took up the role of parks and reserves manager in Taupō in 1973, and was elected to Council in 2004. Now in his fifth term as a Taupō-Kaingaroa Ward Councillor, few people can say they have served their community like he has.

"What I like about being on Council is being involved," he says. "During my time as either a staff member or an elected member I've seen all the major infrastructure projects develop, from the East Taupo Arterial route to things like the Lake Terrace Water Treatment Plant and our waste water system. But what I think has been one of the most important recent developments was the financial strategy that came out of the 2012 Long Term Plan. That strategy has been key to setting Taupo up for a strong future and with a strong credit rating of AA we are a lot better placed than many other places."

Councillor Hickling served as Deputy Mayor during the last triennium, and is a member of the Mangakino and Kinloch representative groups, the Turangitukua Reserve Management Committee, and is deputy chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. He is also chair of the Fences, Roding, Reserves and Dogs committee, and is a member of the Upper Waikato Catchment Committee.

If all that isn't enough, he covers the arts and culture portfolio for Council. "I've always been a supporter of the arts and I think it's great to see where we are at in this regard in our town centre. The arts, the sculpture, the murals, they are all a parcel that, together with the upgrades to the town landscape, help to make for a really great heart of our town. They make Taupo much more of a 'people place'."

Above: Cr Barry Hickling at the Suzhou - Faith and Life exhibition currently on at Taupō Museum.

BIKES ARE BACK PROVES POPULAR

If you happened to pass by Colonel Roberts reserve on Friday and witnessed a biker throwing a helmet across the grass, please be aware he has no case to answer!

This was one of the many aspects of the Bikes are Back motorcycle event organised to highlight road safety, with two-wheeled motorists in mind.

From throwing a yellow helmet into a marked area for prizes – harder than it sounds by the way – to radio station giveaways and motorcycle displays, bikers had the chance to stop and stretch their legs while having some fun at the same time.

Many who dropped in were on their way to the annual 'Cold Kiwi' motorcycle event and appreciated the giveaways and deals offered by local eateries supporting the day.

Right: The Bikes are Back team, L-R: Sinead Vincent, Rose Prisk and Dide Harrison.



WHAT'S ON?

- Sep 9 Greening Taupō community planting day, Hipapatua/Reids Farm
- Sep 9-16 Jock Hobb's Memorial national U19 rugby tournament, Owen Delany Park
- Sep 11 Parents as Driving Coaches, Great Lake Centre
- Until Nov 11 Suzhou: Faith and Life, Taupō Museum

For more information visit www.GreatLakeTaupo.com