

TONGARIRO SOUTH DOMAIN PLAYGROUND UPGRADE POSTPONED

THE PLANNED UPGRADE to the Tongariro South Domain playground has been postponed until 2021 due to disruptions caused to international shipping by Covid-19 restrictions.

Head of community, culture and heritage Dylan Tahau said the delay was unfortunate but rescheduling the upgrade to later in the year would have meant the playground was a work site over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. "We've been looking forward to getting this project

underway and creating a great play space that is unique to Taupō and for all our community," he said.

"Unfortunately, disruption to international shipping schedules caused by Covid-19 restrictions means the equipment for the upgrade will not arrive on time. Rather than delay the start of the project and have the playground closed over the Christmas and New Year holiday period while the work is carried out, we have opted to push back our start date to the new year so that locals and visitors can enjoy the domain over summer."

AC BATHS INDOOR 25-METRE POOL UPDATE

THE TEAM WORKING on the indoor 25-metre pool has faced challenges as a result of Covid-19, including availability and delivery of materials, but progress is slowly being made.

The indoor 25-metre pool was closed in June following the discovery of damaged pipes which had been caused by earth movement.

The pool's pipe system has now been replaced and earthworks have been completed to strengthen and support the base.

Facilities officer Darren Penketh said with this work complete, concrete can now be poured in the coming days. However, with a three-week curing time, this has meant the pool will need to remain closed until October.

He said he was looking forward to the completion of the project so the community could enjoy the finished product. "It's disappointing we couldn't get the pool open for the



school holidays. However, following these delays, our local contractors have been working towards a revised completion time of mid-October," he said.

He wanted to thank staff and swimmers who are all making the best of an unfortunate situation and utilising the outdoor pool more during the closure period.

All bookings from the 25-metre indoor pool have been transferred to the outdoor pool while the repairs are being carried out. Please continue to check the website to determine lane availability.



NATIVES PLANTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION saw over a thousand natives planted in the Brentwood gully area last week.

The partnership between Kids Greening Taupō, Enviroschools, Taupō District Council, St Patrick's primary

school and many others saw several students learn about the flora and fauna of the area from Rachel Thompson of Kids Greening Taupō, before embarking on a day of planting about 1200 harakeke, toitoi, akeake, manuka and kanuka among others. Of note was the trapping of pests in the area and some learning of the karearea, or New Zealand falcon, which live in the gully.

Our environmental ranger Shannon Hanson was on hand to help children with the planting and aid in the education of the area.

"It is important for our young people to learn the importance of looking after our environment and planting is a fun way to do this. Many of the children commented on having seen the karearea flying around and were attentive to learning how to look after the gully," she said.

"It was a fun, hands-on way for the students to soak up some knowledge outside of the classroom."

The collaboration included Kids Greening Taupō, Bay Trust, Enviroschools, Waikato Regional Council, Taupō District Council, St Patrick's Primary School, Total Sport Taupō, Tūwharetoa Maori Trust Board, MediaWorks Foundation, Contact, First Credit Union, More FM, Drive EV, Quality Print and Mitre 10 Mega Taupō.



WATER MAIN BREAKS PROMPT REVISED RENEWAL SCHEDULE

A SERIES OF water main breaks on Tauhara Road between Rifle Range Road and Taharepa Road has seen the pipe renewal programme for this area brought forward.

Mains renewals are already underway in the area, but four mains breaks in the last few weeks prompted a revision to the schedule and the Tauhara main will now be renewed as soon as possible.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said the revised schedule would hopefully mean any further mains breaks were avoided and minimise the inconvenience to residents.

"While the mains there were scheduled for renewal in the coming months this spate of breaks is a clear indication that the pipes are past their service life," he said.

"We have worked with our contractor to fast track the mains renewals and we are hoping that this work can be completed in the next two to three weeks."