

INTERSECTION SPRUCE

UP TAKING SHAPE

THE TAUPŌ TOWN Centre Transformation project is progressing well, with the first half of the Tūwharetoa/Ruapehu streets intersection nearing completion and contractors moving on to the opposite corner at the end of this week.

This will mean the section of Tūwharetoa Street, adjacent to Indian Affairs and Farmers, will be closed to traffic for eight weeks from Monday, October 5 to ensure the health and safety of the community and contractors in the area. A turning bay will be provided at the end of the closed road for vehicles to safely U-turn.

The intersection upgrade is part of the wider Taupō Town Centre Transformation project which received \$20.6 million in government funding in June. This part of the project involves the realignment of each corner to improve health and safety and sight lines, repaving, curved seating and new planting. A raised pedestrian crossing is also being installed.

Programme delivery manager Ian Gray said the team was continuing to work closely with businesses and retailers



to minimise disruption where possible.

"Thank you to the community for their patience as we have worked to complete this first part of what is an exciting two year project to transform our town centre into an area with quality places that is people-friendly and attracts locals and visitors alike to spend time here," he said.

The intersection upgrade is expected to be complete by the end of November.



MANGAKINO SEWER

NETWORK UPGRADE NEARS COMPLETION

WORK ON CHECKING and relining 6km of sewer pipes in Mangakino is nearly complete.

Three Waters network engineer Graeme Jackson said the relining made the system much more resilient and was the most cost-effective method of upgrading the network as it could be carried out without the need for trenching in new pipes.

The work follows on from the checking and relining of 6.8km of Mangakino's pipes in 2018 and the entire cost of the project was expected to be \$2.85 million.

"Our contractor Interflow are using some very high tech processes and materials and are getting excellent results," Mr Jackson said.

He said the programme of work was expected to be completed early this month, and that would mean the entire Mangakino sewer network of over 18km would have been checked and upgraded where needed.

"It has been great to get this much-needed infrastructure project back underway following delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions, and we've had great feedback from the Mangakino community on this."

The 5.2km of pipes that have not been relined have been assessed as in good condition and not needing renewal for at least 20 years, Mr Jackson said.

"Once the crews are finished in Mangakino they will be moving on to checking and relining pipes in Taupō and Turangi," he said.

SHARE OUR PATHWAYS

WITH CARE



SPRING IS HERE and that means we get to take more advantage of our district's fantastic pathways – but it's important to remember we need to share with care!

Some of our pathways are shared paths, and that means wheels and feet can both use them, so please be courteous along the way.

Road safety coordinator Sarah Wright said one way to help make our pathways accessible to everyone was to keep to the left – just like you would driving on the road.

"We love that the warmer temperatures are bringing everyone out of their homes and into the beautiful natural environment we have here in Taupō, but it's important to be mindful of other path users," she said.

She said the Great Lake Pathway was used by a variety of users from cyclists, pedestrians, dog walkers and scooters to parents with buggies, children learning to ride and wheelchairs.

"There are many modes of transport to watch out for and are all equally allowed to use the Great Lake Pathway," she said.

Cyclists should slow down, keep their fingers on the brake lever and remember they are in a less vulnerable position than pedestrians, Ms Wright said.

"Cyclists can help themselves get past more easily by using their voices. A gentle "coming through" or "passing on your right" can be a friendly way to interact with other path users.

"Pedestrians are unpredictable and can change direction at any moment; children even more so. When overtaking, cyclists should slow down and give a wide berth," she said. Cyclists should watch out for people walking dogs, and should approach as if the dog could walk into their path. Dogs should be kept on a short leash to stop them running into trouble.

"And if you're in training for Le Tour de France, trying to beat your personal best time, a shared path probably isn't for you," she said.

Coming into summer there would be more visitors and people out on our shared paths, she said.

"Let's show our visitors how it's done and set an example," she said. "Be safe and have fun."

LIBRARY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME FUN!



THE TEAM AT our Taupō District Libraries have been at it again, planning some fun activities for children around the district.

Our libraries in Taupō and Turangi are playing host to different art and craft activities every day, including a lot of fun and laughs for everyone. Library and museum manager Luisa Haines said the team always enjoyed the influx of children each time the school holidays rolled around.

"A lot of work goes into planning these activities, the staff are fantastic," she said.

"It's hard to know who's having more fun during the holidays the staff or the kids!"

For more information on the events lined up for this year go to taupo.govt.nz/holidayprogramme.



FATIGUE STOP

COLLABORATION FOR SH5

COUNCIL IS PARTNERING with Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency), Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Taupō Police in a collaborative effort to raise awareness around the dangers of driving while tired.

The campaign includes fatigue stops planned for various spots along the State Highway with drivers given refreshments with a view to breaking up their journey, following 29 crashes on the road between 2015 and 2019. You may have spotted one this week!

Road safety coordinator Sarah Wright is keen to get the driver fatigue message out to motorists.

"We're keen to see crash numbers come down. Sometimes only a small stop to stretch your legs or a quick nap can make all the difference," she said.

"We're hoping this collaboration goes some way toward getting that message across."

The driver stops will complement 12 new billboards encouraging drivers to take a break, as part of a wider 'Stay Alive on 5' road safety initiative.