

ROAD SAFETY WEEK URGES PEOPLE TO SLOW DOWN

THE #LOVETAUPO SIGN will light up yellow and there will be a visual display by a student from Tauhara College projected onto the lake next week in remembrance of those who lost their lives on our roads last year.

The display is part of Road Safety Week which runs from May 17 to 23 this year and is promoted by road safety charity Brake.

The display includes six segments to represent the six fatalities we had on our roads in the Taupō District in last year. The water and light will interact creating a ripple effect – symbolising the effects of these losses on their friends and family.

Road safety coordinator Sarah Wraight said the theme this year – speed – reminds us that speeding or driving too fast for the conditions is a major problem in Aotearoa.

“We lost six lives in the Taupō District in six crashes last year, speed was a factor in half of those fatalities,” she said.

“Vehicle speed plays an important part in driving safely, the faster you're travelling, the longer it takes to stop and the bigger the forces involved in a crash. Please remember to drive at the correct speed for the conditions to minimise risks.”



MANGAKINO SPORTS CLUBROOM UPDATE



WORK IS UNDERWAY on the transformation of the Mangakino sports clubroom which will see a new kitchen, an internal fit out of toilets, showers and changing rooms, as well as a completely new roof.

Unfortunately, the grand opening has been delayed by a few weeks due to a couple of unforeseen issues.

Mangakino-Pouakani Ward Councillor Kirsty Trueman said everyone's working hard to get this finished as soon as possible for Mangakino community.

“When builders pulled the cladding off, they discovered the framing was a different size than anticipated and required a building consent amendment, adding to the timeline. We've also been affected by the supply of materials created by Covid-19 restrictions around the world.

“So far, the workers have completed the structural work, installed insulation, and replaced most of the roof and the cladding. Over the next few weeks, they'll install the windows, complete the shower and toilet cubicles, and finalise the all-important fire system,” said Mrs Trueman.

All going well, the project will now be completed by the end of June. In total, the project is expected to cost \$620,000 and was included as part of the Long-term Plan 2018/28.

GOOD PROGRESS ON TAUPŌ TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION



Left to right, Hayley Perry, contract manager from WSP, facilities manager Darren Penketh and landscape architect Fraser Scott from Taupō District Council

WORK IS COMING to an end at the Ruapehu and Horomatangi intersection, with our contractors Camex finalising the installation of street furniture and the water fountain, while our parks and reserves team are finishing off the gardens. We have some pedestrian bollards and barriers going in after that, and if the sun keeps shining, we should have everything wrapped up very shortly.

Over on Titiraupenga Street, we are expecting the Scannell Street changes to be completed this week provided we have enough sunny days. From there, you will see the team move to Paora Hapi Street where they will be improving pedestrian safety by adding refuge islands to all four legs of the intersection. This work is expected to take four and a half weeks to complete, weather permitting. The aim of this work is to encourage through-traffic to utilise Titiraupenga Street and Spa Road, instead of Lake Terrace and Tongariro Street. This will allow us to transform our town centre to put people first and create better connections with the surrounding environment.

The works are being undertaken by Downer with some road closures at this intersection required as part of this work. We will be ensuring access for residents and businesses at all times but please follow signage and detours in place when in the area.

Thank you for your patience while this work is underway.

NEW WATER MAIN NEARS COMPLETION

A NEW WATER main to supply future residential developments in south eastern Taupō and provide increased fire-fighting capacity to Taupō Airport is nearing completion.

The Tauhara main runs 3.3km from the top of Richmond heights down State Highway 1 and will feed the residential developments planned for Wharewaka east.

The main has been jointly funded by Taupō District Council and the residential developer, a further stage currently scheduled for 2024 will see the construction of an additional reservoir on the Taupō land east off the Botanical Gardens, and connection of the airport to this higher pressure supply.



RESULTS FOR THE TURANGI-TONGARIRO COMMUNITY BOARD BY-ELECTION

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE O'Connor Patena who has been elected to the Turangi-Tongariro Community board.

Mr O'Connor Patena will be officially sworn in at the Turangi-Tongariro Community Board meeting at 2pm on Wednesday June 2.

