



PEOPLE-FRIENDLY SPACES ON THE WAY FOR TOWN CENTRE

FEEDBACK FROM THE community is helping to shape the transformation of the town centre as council finalises its plans for the Taupō Town Centre Transformation project.

Last week, council heard from submitters on council's proposal to create two pedestrian malls, with many congratulating council on the push for a more people-friendly town centre that creates a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists and children.

Mayor David Trewavas said council has been listening closely to the Taupō community to ensure the project is shaped with their voices in mind.

"We heard from many – young and old – how encouraged they are by our proposals to create these people-friendly spaces. It was inspiring to hear from school students asking us to go further in this area to make it easier and safer to access our town centre.

"Of course, we have also been listening to businesses who have asked us to ensure sufficient parking and access for visitors and locals to the town centre are front of mind. I can assure you, they are, and we are looking at the best ways we can incorporate additional parking, particularly on Tongariro St, as part of our finalised designs," Mayor Trewavas said.

Following the hearings, a council ad-hoc committee established to make the final decision voted to move forward with both pedestrian malls. There is now a one-month appeal process for this decision.

"We will be continuing to share our plans with the community and stakeholders and actively encouraging feedback on what we are proposing. It is absolutely a priority for us to bring the community along on the journey and ensure we are listening to what they are telling us," Mr Trewavas said.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE TAUPŌ CATCHMENT

WE WANT YOUR feedback for Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki, a draft plan aimed at protecting Lake Taupō for current and future generations.

The high-level plan seeks to protect, restore, enhance and maintain the Taupō catchment, including its waterways, geothermal areas, and unique flora and fauna. The whakaaro and kōrero you share will guide the development of the plan which the committee anticipate will be adopted for public consultation in early 2022.

Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki is an initiative of Te Kōpu ā Kānapanapa, a joint committee established under the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Act 2018, and is made up of eight members – four from Ngāti Tūwharetoa and two from Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council. Mayor David Trewavas is a co-chair of the Committee. The name evokes the gleaming depths of Taupōmoana (Lake Taupō) as the shimmering belly of the fish.

To find out more and comment on the discussion document, head to tekaupapakaitiaki.co.nz.

Submissions close July 16, 2021.

Come along to one of the drop-in sessions and chat with a committee member:

- Tuesday, June 1, 10am – 12pm, Board Room, Council offices, Turangi
- Tuesday, June 15, 10am – 12pm, Great Lake Centre foyer, 5 Story Place, Taupō
- Tuesday, June 29, 9.30am – 11am, Kinloch Community Hall, Kinloch Domain on Mata Place



PUTTING TAUPŌ ON THE MAP

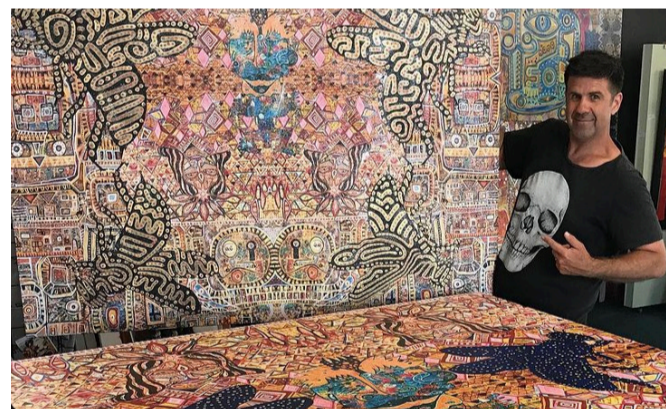
WITH 26 YEARS' experience in the trade Darren and Kay Edge of Café 99 know a thing or two about hospitality and are looking forward to the Taupō Town Centre Transformation project becoming a reality.

"We've been waiting for this for 16 years, and it's great that it's finally happening. Most towns all around the world have town centres – whether it's a plaza or a town square – and having the lakefront made more friendly for pedestrians will give Taupō a real central heart that makes the most of our greatest asset. Roberts Reserve will be Taupō's lounge!" says Darren.

"We rely on visitors for our economy, and with cafes, bars

and restaurants in such a great location this transformation will really put us on the map, not just as an events capital but as a foodie destination. And as a café owner I think the more the merrier – the more choices and variation our town can offer will mean more people coming here and spending here."

"Obviously there will be a bit of a transition period and we'll have to get used to the new layout and traffic flows, but this is going to be great for our town. All around the country town centres are struggling to keep a vibe on their streets and this is our chance to buck that trend and have a really vibrant central business district that people will come from far and wide to enjoy. I say let's do it – and let's do now."



"INSTINCTIVELY INHERENT" – MUST-SEE EXHIBITION AT TAUPŌ MUSEUM

FATHER-AND-SON John and Richard Boyd-Dunlop's joint exhibition at the Taupō Museum, "Instinctively Inherent", is wowing art lovers with its bold and colourful works.

Taupō Museum exhibitions officer Kerence Stephen said it was a delight to host the Boyd-Dunlops, whose artworks revel in playful imagery and abundant colour, and those who have come so far have left with nothing but praise for the exhibition.

"It's great to see such a positive response to this pair of phenomenal New Zealand artists' work. Richard's augmented reality painting, which can be fully experienced with the Artivive phone app, has proved a particular hit. We hope many more people will seize the opportunity to also experience the joys of 'Instinctively Inherent' before it closes on June 14," Ms Stephen said.

Taupō Museum is open seven days from 10am to 4.30pm and entry is free to Taupō District residents with proof of address.

