



### PROUD TO BE A PART OF TRANSFORMATION

**LOCAL BUSINESSMAN BEN Westerman is looking forward to good things coming as a part of the Taupō Town Centre Transformation – and as Chair of Towncentre Taupō he's proud to have been involved with it.**

Born and bred in Taupō and an active member of the community, being on the Towncentre Taupo board since 2012 and chairperson since 2019, Mr Westerman says the government-funded transformation project will be a huge boost to the whole of the district.

"I'm really excited to see the transformation getting underway. Towncentre Taupō were involved with the original plan in 2011 and saw the vision and eye for detail that was part of the planning. The transformation is going to bring a new vibrancy to our town that will be hugely beneficial – it's something that every other town in New Zealand is striving for, and we have to opportunity to make it happen right now. While the central business districts of many regional centres are struggling, this transformation will make ours an even greater place for locals and a great destination for visitors.

"As a community we have to get away from the idea of parking right outside the shop we want to go to, there is virtually nowhere else you can do that anyway. What we are gaining in the shape of economic activity and a vibrant CBD far outweighs that; if achieving that – not just for ourselves but our kids – means I have to take a few extra minutes to



walk from my car to work then I'm more than happy to do that," Mr Westerman said.  
"I think the traffic management will work well, and I say that as someone who was sceptical of the Norman Smith Street traffic lights and had to eat humble pie on that one! I think we should all be really proud to be a part of a town that has this kind of vision – and that actually gets it done!"



### A NATURAL UNDERTAKING – INFORMATION SESSION

**TAUPŌ CEMETERY WILL soon be offering natural burials. If this is something you're interested in learning more about, come along to our information session next week.**

Natural burials are an increasingly popular option for people and families who hold strong environmental beliefs. They return the body to the earth for the benefit of the environment.

Weather permitting, we'll do a tour of the natural burial area which is currently being developed.

**Natural burial information session:**  
Taupō Funeral Services, 117 Rickit Street, Taupo  
Thursday, June 17  
10am

### HEADS UP – PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN TAKING YOUR DOG TO THE LAKE



**DUE TO THE recent low lake levels, there's been a possible appearance of Nostoc on the foreshore. Nostoc is a type of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), and in certain conditions can produce toxins that are particularly dangerous to dogs.**

Low lake levels have increased the likelihood of dogs coming into contact with this algae and owners should discourage their animals from swimming in areas where algae is present, particularly where it is visible on the surface of the water.

The algae is typically only toxic when eaten by dogs. Its toxins can be fatal and symptoms often consist of muscle tremors, coma, and watery or bloody diarrhoea. Dogs may also have difficulty breathing or convulsions. Any owner noticing such symptoms should contact their vet as soon as possible.

While the lake is sitting lower than what we would normally see this time of year, it's important to remember that the lake would naturally sit lower. The management of the waters through the control gates and inflows from the Tokaanu Power Station keep the lake within the allowable range (1.4 meter operating range with a maximum level of 357.25masl and a minimum of 355.85masl). The biggest influence on the lake level is inflows, such as rainfall. It won't come as any surprise, but we are currently in a significant dry period - the driest since October 2020.

### SECOND STAGE OF ACACIA BAY WATER CONNECTION GETTING UNDERWAY

**THE SECOND STAGE of the project to connect Acacia Bay and Mapara residents to the Taupō water supply is getting underway with upgrades to the water mains on either side of Control Gates Bridge.**

This week, there will be a pedestrian diversion in place around part of the lower reserve near the Norman Smith Street and Wairakei Drive intersection while the new pipe sections are being welded together.

From June 21, work to install these new pipes will then begin. A one lane closure will be in place on lower Norman



Smith Street from this date, with traffic coming from Taupō township to Acacia Bay and Nukuhau being diverted up Wairakei Drive to Poihipi Road before reconnecting back into Acacia Bay Road. Vehicles entering Taupō township from the north will flow normally.

The lane diversion is expected to be in place for approximately four days during the week and drivers are asked to please use caution around the worksite and follow all directions from our traffic management team.

Thanks for your patience while we undertake this work.



2021 MYSTERY IN THE LIBRARY SERIES  
**LAWBREAKERS BY THE LAKE**

### LAWBREAKERS BY THE LAKE

**LOVE A GOOD MYSTERY? Booklovers are invited to a thrilling evening of criminally good discussion with four talented Kiwi storytellers.**

Presented by the Ngaio Marsh Awards, Rotorua Noir short story award winner Zoe Rankin will chair an author panel featuring Taupō author and past Ngaio finalist Tina Shaw, Tūrangi author and past Ngaio finalist Jen Shieff, as well as journalist, true crime writer and 2021 awards entrant Jared Savage.

The authors will discuss where their inspiration comes from, what attracts them to writing about crime and justice, and how they bring fascinating characters and exciting stories – fictional and real – to life on the page.

And it's free entry! All are welcome, no booking required.  
5.30 to 7pm,  
Thursday, June 17  
Taupō Library, Story Place, Taupō

