

## TONGARIRO PLAYGROUND UPGRADE ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY



### IT'S A BIG thumbs up for the Tongariro South Playground upgrade from local primary school students.

The upgrade begins this week and was launched with a blessing conducted by Reverend Peace and attended by deputy mayor Christine Rankin, councillors and council staff, representatives of the project's designers, contractors, and supporters, as well as students from Taupō Primary.

The project was made possible through a private/public funding partnership between council and the 100% Great Lake Charitable Trust, Contact Energy, and Towncentre Taupō. It was originally scheduled for completion in 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Project sponsor Dylan Tahau said it was exciting to finally have the upgrade getting underway.

"We got some great responses from our community survey last year about what people wanted to see in the playground," Mr Tahau said, "and we've incorporated as much of that as possible into our final design."

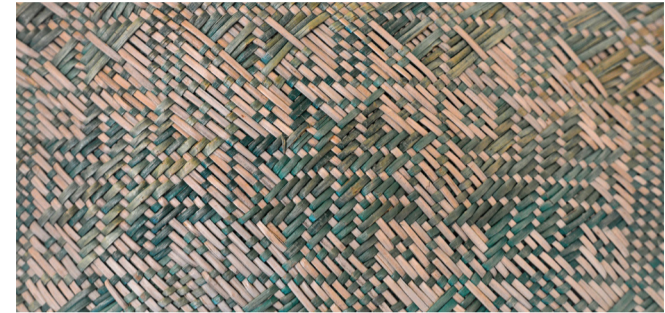
"We wanted to create a playground that was unique to

Taupō and that told our story of the mountains, so we worked with Bespoke Landscape Architects and Tuwharetoa artist Kingi Pitiroi to develop the overall concept and design of the playground. Bespoke brought a wealth of experience in playground design and Kingi Pitiroi provided the local flavour through his design work.

"We also wanted to create a playground that was accessible to all our community and that could be enjoyed by a wide range of ages and abilities and that allowed for more inclusive play between parents and children. Overall, we think the community will be very happy with the result and we can't wait to get our tamariki – our expert playground testers – back here in October when it is finished, to put it through its paces."

Work on the upgrade is scheduled to begin on June 18 and will be completed by end of October; the playground will be closed while the work is carried out, with play spaces available at the Community Park Playground on Horomatangi Street and the Laughton Street Playground.

## EXHIBITION CELEBRATES NEW BEGINNINGS WITH TE WHARE PORA (THE ART OF WEAVING)



**RARANGA (WEAVING) PIECES** will be showcased at Taupō Museum from June 19 to August 2. The exhibition, "Poipoia, Ngā Pia o Te Whare Pora" highlights work from the Museum's collection, alongside woven pieces from students of Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

There will be a range of works on display such as kono (baskets) and kete (kit), as well as kakahu (cloaks).

Taupō Museum curator Piata Winitana-Murray said the exhibition also celebrates Matariki (Māori New Year), the star constellation that signals the new year in Māori traditions.

"We're very proud to exhibit works from both past and present raranga students from Te Wananga o Aotearoa in Turangi, alongside woven pieces from the Museum's collection.

"These works celebrate the journey of weaving from pia (trainee) to tohunga (expert), exchanging, conversing, as learner and teacher, while under the guiding constellation of Matariki."

Notable pieces on display include a large, collective piece titled 'Puawaitanga' which was created by Te Wananga o Aotearoa students in 2014. As well as a kahu puakarimu (rain cape), a replica of a rare kakahu housed at Te Papa which uses dyed red and black club moss, which was woven by former kaiako (tutor) Margaret Belshaw.

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

## NOMINATIONS FOR TURANGI-TONGARIRO COMMUNITY BOARD BY-ELECTION ARE OPEN



### WE'RE HOLDING A by-election to fill a vacancy on the Turangi-Tongariro Community Board, following the resignation of Ian Ashmore.

The vacant position covers the Turangi Town subdivision. General manager corporate Andrew Peckham said council is required to hold a by-election, as the community board vacancy has occurred more than 12 months out from the next election in October 2022.

"We encourage anyone who has an interest in representing their community to put their hand up for the position," he said. Nominations are open now and will close 12 noon on

Thursday 8 July. Voting will then open on Thursday 12 August, closing 12 noon Friday 3 September, with results expected to be available later that day.

Turangi-Tongariro community board chair Clint Green also thanked Mr Ashmore for his time on the board.

"Ian has been a valued member of the board and has been a champion for the community. We wish him well in his personal and professional endeavours," he said.

Further information on the by-election and nomination process is available at [taupo.govt.nz/elections](http://taupo.govt.nz/elections).



## NEW PEDESTRIAN ISLANDS FOR LAKE TERRACE

**TWO NEW PEDESTRIAN islands** are being installed on Lake Terrace to help improve pedestrian access and safety. The islands will be installed near Tobin Place and Tremaine Avenue, with work being carried out by local contractor TR Construction. Senior engineering officer Izelda Cruz said the work is getting underway from June 21 and is scheduled to be completed by July 5.

"With increasing numbers of the community enjoying our lakefront and Great Lake Pathway it is important that everyone can cross Lake Terrace," she said.

"This is a very busy roadway, particularly in summer, so it's great that we'll have these two new islands ready for spring."

The combined cost of the two islands is \$27,000 and is 51% co-funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Traffic management will be in place during the construction period and drivers are asked to please use caution around the work site.

