

COUNCIL VOTES TO INTRODUCE LIVING WAGE



THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS have voted to introduce the living wage, as part of deliberations on the Long-term Plan 2021-2031.

Mayor David Trewavas said the decision to move to a living wage was an important one for the community as a whole.

"The living wage allows our people to support themselves and their families. I believe this decision further strengthens our commitment to our people and the Taupō District community we serve," he said.

Chief executive Gareth Green thanked the council for its decision.

"I am very thankful to our Mayor and Councillors for recognising that this is the right thing to do and making this brave decision.

"I believe that paying our people at least an amount that is what is required to live is the right thing to do. It is, I believe, the minimum that we need to do to be able to reflect our values as an organisation and as a community," he said.

The introduction of the living wage will be set at the new rate of \$22.75 per hour and will benefit around 135 employees. It will come into effect from 1 July 2021.

HOROMATANGI STREET INTERSECTION NEXT UP FOR TRANSFORMATION



With work on the Paora Hapi / Titiraupenga Street intersection nearly complete, our Downer team are now relocating to the Horomatangi Street intersection for the next stage of the Taupō Town Centre Transformation.

Project manager Izelda Cruz said the work was going very well despite the weather not coming to the party, and thanked drivers for their patience. "Our contractors are doing a great job and so is the community – drivers and pedestrians alike have been really understanding, and the finished results look great," she said.

"The upgrade to the Horomatangi/Titiraupenga Street intersection will help improve traffic flow as well as pedestrian access here, and we have been working with Taupō Primary to make sure they have safe access to the field and that the bulk of the work around their boundary will be carried out during the school holidays. After the school holidays, we will also temporarily move the school bus stop to the angled parks opposite Freedom Furniture and Super Cheap Auto while the work is underway, and we're asking parents to use the gates on Ruapehu, Tamamutu and Horomatangi Streets for pick up."

The work is expected to be completed within six weeks, weather permitting, and traffic management will be in place.

TAUPŌ DISTRICT TAKING TE REO MĀORI TO THE STREETS



NEW BILINGUAL STREET SIGNS in Turangi have gone down a treat with locals and visitors alike. The signs in both English and Te Reo Māori are the work of the Turangi Tongariro Community Board, and board chair Clint Green said the response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive.

"The signs at the entrance to town needed to be upgraded and the idea of making them bilingual was floated by councillor John Mack and Te Takinga New of the community board," Mr Green said.

"The board was in complete agreement that this was a great idea and Zak Winduss of Taupō District Council, who is our customer support leader here in Turangi, made it happen in a matter of days. It was a pretty simple process really and we've had lots of feedback – all of it positive. I even had Newshub approach me for comment, so I laid down the challenge from Turangi for the rest of New Zealand to follow suit!"

Mr Winduss said he has also received very positive

feedback. "It has been overwhelming how warmly the signs have been received by the community," he said. "The unanimously positive response is a clear message that this move is something the people of Turangi feel proud of and it's been so heartening to see."

A project is also underway to add macrons and correct some spelling inconsistencies in street signs across the district. Iwi and co-governance manager Dylan Tahau said macrons were being added to signs in several streets and communities, and 'te' was also being added to Heuheu Street, making it te Heuheu, and Hatepe Street, making it te Hatepe.

"This project is about making sure our streets' names are spelt correctly as they reflect the people, places, and things they are named after," Mr Tahau said.

"There is a danger that we change history by not doing things right. The macrons and spelling will assist us to honour the people, places and history that the street names represent. Like the 'o' in Taupō; the macron depicts an elongated vowel sound and when not used can alter the meaning of the word."



THANKS TO OUR HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS

IT'S TE WIKI Tūao ā-Motu National Volunteer Week and we're celebrating the collective contribution of all volunteers who enrich Aotearoa New Zealand.

As part of this, deputy mayor Christine Rankin would like to acknowledge our many volunteers in the Taupō District.

"With life busier than ever, it can be hard to find any spare time. But there are so many people across the district who make the time to volunteer. You keep our community groups, charities, and non-profits thriving, we are so grateful to you, and you make the Taupō community a better place."

National Volunteer Week 2021 runs from June 20-26. This year's theme is 'Recognise, Connect, Reimagine'. Find out more at nationalvolunteerweek.nz

