

LOOKING FORWARD TO SAFER STREETS



THE TAUPŌ TOWN CENTRE Transformation project is bringing some exciting changes to our town, including safer pedestrian and cycling access for Taupō Primary School.

The creation of a pedestrian mall on Horomatangi Street, a signalised pedestrian crossing on Titiraupeka Street, as well as additional pedestrian islands surrounding the school environment will all add to safer access points for school children.

School principal Zac Taylor said while there were concerns about the increased traffic flow due to through-traffic moving from Tongariro Street to Titiraupeka Street as a result of this project, he is confident that council has listened and addressed these concerns.

"We're really excited about our tamariki being able to move safely and freely between so many areas as a result of these changes," he said.

"The willingness of the council team to engage with the school and listen to our feedback has been pleasing, and we look forward to continuing to work with them on any possible future review of the project."

"We've already seen that the Horomatangi/Ruapehu

intersection work has taken on board our feedback around ensuring the changes are child friendly and provide clear sight lines, and this is continuing on Titiraupeka Street. The team has taken onboard the need for safe crossings at every intersection. These changes are going to allow tamariki to access the school safely, enabling them to walk or cycle safely to get here."

School board chair Catriona Eagles said the school was also passionate about the pedestrian mall on Horomatangi Street and its benefits.

"We appreciate that there are going to be changes for us and our neighbours with this project - but we really feel it is a great result for everybody as a whole."

"The Horomatangi pedestrian mall and the additional changes, including the signalised pedestrian crossing and safer intersection crossings, mean it will be less stressful getting children across that road, and safety is our number one priority."

For more information about the transformation project head to taupo.govt.nz/towncentrereformation

NATURAL BURIAL ZONE GIVEN THUMBS UP

THE RECENTLY OPENED natural burial zone at the main Taupō Cemetery on Rickit Street has now been certified by the Natural Burials organisation.

Natural burials use nature's own decomposition process: non-embalmed bodies are placed in untreated wood caskets, and buried in shallower graves than usual, with trees grown in the area above. The zone has met the organisation's protocols around manner of burial, ease of access, room for expansion, and focus on public communication.

Cemetery manager Kieran Smith congratulated his team on their hard work in making this increasingly popular option available for people and families who hold strong environmental beliefs to be buried at Taupō Cemetery in line with their philosophies.

"We are all extremely proud to have successfully provided this important choice," he said.

Deputy Mayor Christine Rankin said, "Now, if that is their wish, a person can ensure their body naturally reintegrates itself into the soil for the benefit of the environment."



NEW PLAYGROUND OPENS ON RAUPŌ RESERVE



A NEW PLAYGROUND ON Raupō Reserve is now up and running and local tamariki are already putting it through its paces.

The new playground has features for all ages and abilities. Councillor Anna Park, who holds the youth portfolio, said the new playground is a fantastic asset to the local community and thanked all those who had helped make it a reality.

"We were approached by some young members of the community and used their ideas when designing the playground we had planned for this space," Mrs Park said. "One of the things that came through very clear was a concern about the playground being near Maunganamu Drive, so we've responded by aligning the playground more with the Puna Rise side of the park so it will flow into the plantings and natural play elements near Harakeke Drive."

"It was also clear the community wanted more plantings, seating and paths and we took this into consideration. We have seating and some shade still to go in, and I think the finished playground looks great and will be very popular."

WASTE MINIMISATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



ARE YOU AN INDIVIDUAL, community group or organisation looking to fund an initiative that will help reduce, reuse or recover materials that would otherwise end up in the landfill?

Or maybe you want to raise awareness around food waste, single-use plastics or other waste. You could be eligible for a grant from the Waste Minimisation Fund!

Grants are available for up to \$2,000 – from a total pool of \$10,000 – so there's plenty to go around. Applications are open from August 16 to September 16, 2021.

These grants are funded by the national waste levy which is set by the Ministry for the Environment.

To find out more or to apply head to taupo.govt.nz/wmf

RATES REMINDER

A FRIENDLY REMINDER that the latest rates instalment is due on 20 August. There are heaps of ways to pay including over the phone, online at taupo.govt.nz, through internet banking or with direct debits, automatic payments or other instalments.

Please be aware that we are no longer accepting cheques as a method of payment. This is because New Zealand banks are phasing out the use of cheques altogether.

Give us a call on 07 376 0899 if you need any guidance – we're here to help. And remember, if you have any concerns about being able to pay due to your financial situation, please get in touch to discuss your options.

