

TONGARIRO STREET UPGRADE TRANSFORMS CAFÉ'S OUTDOOR DINING SPACE

CAFÉ NINETY NINE owners Kay McGeough and Darren Edge say they're delighted with a new outdoor dining space outside the café that's been created by the Taupō Town Centre Transformation work on Tongariro Street.

The work to transform the street into a two-lane, slower speed zone with extra carparks, pedestrian islands and a cycle lane also includes outdoor dining spaces to help create a more inviting environment along the street.

Work started on Tongariro Street in August and while Kay and Darren said that business has been quiet, partly due to the street works and partly due to the loss of customers from Auckland and the Waikato, they're looking forward to the street being completed.

Darren said for Café Ninety Nine, the major benefit of the Tongariro Street upgrade is that it has allowed the café to develop an outdoor dining area, which is something they have been keen to see for some time.

The outdoor dining area was completed two weeks ago and Kay and Darren say customers are already choosing to sit there on sunny days.

Darren is positive about the revamp of Tongariro Street and said he expects the final result to be great for the town, adding vibrancy and helping cement its reputation as a foodie destination.

"All over the world, restaurant streets are pedestrianised... you look at France, London, it's all pedestrianised. We've got a pleasant setting here - now we just need the people."



Landscape Architect Fraser Scott with Café Ninety Nine owners Kay McGeough and Darren Edge.

NEW STAG PARK DUMP STATION OPENS



Councillor John Williamson (left) with Camex Civil site manager Max Phippen and Camex Civil project manager Chris Whale (right) at the new dump station at Stag Park.

A NEW DUMP station serving recreational vehicles at Stag Park is open and ready for business. The station provides an extra facility for caravan and campervan users to dispose of wastewater and top up their drinking water tanks with fresh water.

It was formally opened last Monday by Cr John Williamson, with Chris Whale and Max Phippen of contractors Camex Civil. Taupō District Council worked with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association on the design of the new station which is suitable for larger motorhomes and RVs.

It can accommodate two lanes of vehicles and be used by both European and Japanese vehicles, which discard from opposite sides. Cr Williamson said the new station provided an extra facility for caravanners and motor homers to safely dispose of their wastewater and help protect the district's environment.

Some landscaping was required to prepare the site, with recycled, crushed concrete and pumice from Broadlands Road Transfer Station used as fill. The entrance road to Stag Park was also modified to improve heavy vehicle access and allow a safe turning area into the dump station. The project budget was \$211,000 and work was finished last week.

WORK TO BEGIN ON KIDDLE DRIVE ROUNDABOUT

WORK ON IMPROVING the Napier-Kiddle-Arrowsmith intersection begins on Monday 15 November. The work will see the existing intersection replaced with a new roundabout constructed by contractor Fulton Hogan.

Funding of \$994,500, 51 per cent of the project total, has been secured from Waka Kotahi, with the remaining \$955,500 coming from Council. Design work on the roundabout has been completed by local civil engineers WSP Opus and project manager Travis Delich said while there will be some road closures during the project, the team will be working as quickly as possible to minimise inconvenience.

"This will be a sizeable piece of work and we have a project plan that will keep disruption to a minimum, but also ensure the work progresses as quickly as possible," he said. "We will have some detours in place during the construction period and we are asking all road users to please drive carefully around the work site and follow the guidance of our traffic management team. We're scheduled to have this project completed prior to Christmas, weather dependent, as we know that there has been a high level of interest in this among the community and we want it up and running for the busy summer season."



From left: Izelda Cruz and Bryson Huxley of Taupō District Council, with project manager Brad McKenzie of Downer at the new Titirāpunga/te Heuheu Street traffic lights.

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION!

All the hard work in Titirāpunga Street comes to fruition next week when the permanent traffic lights are switched on!

The new lights at the Titirāpunga/te Heuheu intersection will go live on Wednesday, 17 November, along with the new set of on-demand lights by Taupō Primary School.

Project manager Izelda Cruz said it has been a big job.

"We'd like to thank all the neighbouring residents and business owners for working with us on this," she said. "The two sets of lights are linked via radar and are also monitored by cameras, and for the first few days we'll have staff on site to make sure things are running smoothly. Our transport engineer Bryson Huxley will also be monitoring the lights from the camera control room and fine-tuning the timing and sequencing over the first few days, so please be patient while this final stage of the project comes together."



A FRIENDLY REMINDER that rates for the second instalment are due by November 22.

Rates are billed in four instalments for the rating year which begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. Your rates invoice will have been posted or emailed to you on the first day of the month.

For more information visit taupo.govt.nz/rates.



REGISTRATIONS OPENING SOON AT TAUPŌ DISTRICT LIBRARIES!

