

LAKE TERRACE TRANSFORMATION GETTING UNDERWAY



Left to right, Ian Gray and Izelda Cruz of the TTCT Project Team

WITH WORK ON the upgrades to intersections on Titirāupenga Street nearing completion, the focus of the Taupō Town Centre Transformation is now moving to the construction of a new southern gateway at the Lake Terrace and Titirāupenga Street intersection.

Project manager Izelda Cruz said that while the Roberts Street intersection was yet to be completed the team would be starting on Lake Terrace to get weather-dependent work underway as quickly as possible and while the risk of disruptions to supply chains were reduced.

“Given the current situation with staffing and supplies being affected by COVID-19 we’re being as flexible as possible,” Ms Cruz said, and after working closely with the contractor and our project team, we’ve decided to be more nimble in the methodology we use and bring the Lake Terrace work forward in the schedule.”

“The revisions to the Lake Terrace/Titirāupenga Street intersection will see priority given to traffic turning from

Lake Terrace into Titirāupenga Street and heading north. This is quite a significant piece of work which will see us completely remove and then reinstate the road surface here.

“For the next couple of weeks, we’ll be doing the preparation work for this on the lake-side road shoulder with the road remaining open for this work until late April. This is something of a milestone for our Taupō Town Centre Transformation project and we are really looking forward to getting started on this important piece of work – and also to getting it finished as soon as possible!”

Ms Cruz said that Northcroft Street will have a restricted right turn for safety reasons due to the proximity to the main intersection on Lake Terrace.

“Thanks to everyone for their understanding while we have been upgrading this street, it has been really amazing. Please continue to follow the guidance of our traffic management team and thanks again for your patience.”



IMPORTANT ROAD MAINTENANCE STARTS NEXT WEEK

HEADS UP DRIVERS! Work will start on Monday 4 April to reseal a 5.3km section of Poihipi Road, between Marotiri Road and State Highway 32. Significant delays are expected here with stop/go traffic management in place while the reseal work is carried out through until Wednesday 6 April, weather permitting. For traffic heading to and from Mangakino or Whakamaru, we recommend using an alternative route via Marotiri Road and SH32, or Kaahu Road.

Following that work, our contractors will be resealing Waipapa Road between Rangatira Drive and Lake Road in Mangakino, and a 2.7km section of Waipapa Road leading down to the Waipapa Dam. Both of these reseals are scheduled to take place on Thursday 7 April and Friday 8 April.

As always, please reduce your speed, follow the directions of our traffic management team and drive safely through any roadworks. Thanks for your patience and understanding while we carry out this important road maintenance work.

SITE BLESSING ALLOWS WAIORA HOUSE REBUILD TO START

IT SEEMED A good omen when the storm lashing Taupō paused temporarily last Thursday to allow the Waiora House site blessing to go ahead.

Members of the Waiora Community Trust, Waiora House tenants, community representatives, elected members, council staff and the project’s architects and builders gathered on the corner of Kaimanawa Street, Spa Road and Motutaiko Street as Reverend Peace blessed the site of the new building.

Taupō District Council will own the building but it will be managed by Waiora Community Trust; and occupied by not-for-profit organisations in the social sector.

Project manager Pete Bradshaw said the day was a significant milestone in replacing Waiora House, which was demolished in 2019 after asbestos was discovered.

“Waiora House holds a special place in the hearts of many and this will be a modern flexible new main building which

will allow organisations to work in a more collaborative connected way for many years to come.”

Mayor David Trewavas said there had been a lot of obstacles to overcome to get to the start of construction but the council had always been determined that Waiora House would be rebuilt.

“We are so proud for this to happen and get underway – it’s a wonderful design and it’s going to be a wonderful landmark on Spa Road.”

Waiora Community Trust chair Eileen Devane said the trust and Waiora House tenants were all thrilled to reach this milestone.

“We’d like to thank the council for getting behind this amazing future-proofed concept. The trust is so excited to see this coming together.”

Work is very close to beginning, with builders RBS Group Limited planning to start construction next month.



FREE HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

FURTHER FREE HOME-COMPOSTING workshops are running again this month in Taupō and Tūrangi, in partnership with the council.

The 90-minute sessions help people learn how get stuck into home composting as an effective and planet-friendly way of dealing with our waste – while saving money and improving the garden.

The next sessions run on Saturday 23 April 2022 at 1.30pm at the Taupō Community Gardens and Awhi Gardens next to the Tūrangi Golf Club. The workshops run for around 90 minutes and all attendees go into the draw to win a home composter or worm farm!

Head to taupo.govt.nz/composting to find out more.



Reverend Peace performing the blessing at the site of the new Waiora House main building. Looking on from left are Mayor David Trewavas, Taupō District Council deputy chief executive Julie Gardyne, Waiora Community Trust chair Eileen Devane, project manager Pete Bradshaw, Cr John Williamson, Cr Kathy Guy, Paul Raven of Shelter Architects and Waiora Community Trust deputy chair Chris Johnston.

