

## MANA WHAKAHONO SIGNALS NEW DAWN FOR TŪRANGI



**A GROUND-BREAKING Mana Whakahono partnership agreement between Taupō District Council and Ngāti Tūrangitukua was approved at Tuesday afternoon's council meeting.**

Ngāti Tūrangitukua is the Ngāti Tūwharetoa hapū that holds mana whenua over Tūrangi township and its surrounds and includes its post-settlement entity, the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Charitable Trust.

The Mana Whakahono covers Resource Management Act [RMA], Local Government Act and Reserve Act matters and was agreed between the parties after extensive discussion and negotiation. It will be implemented by a co-governance committee equally made up of Ngāti Tūrangitukua and council appointees.

A Mana Whakahono ā Rohe is a tool provided for by the RMA designed to enable tangata whenua and local authorities to discuss and record how they will work together on resource management matters, including joint decision making. The new Mana Whakahono agreement

embeds this into a wider framework aimed at establishing a genuine equitable partnership.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas said this was an exciting step forward for the people of the district, and Tūrangi especially.

"This historic move will allow the existing partnership between the council and Ngāti Tūrangitukua to flourish."

Ngāti Tūrangitukua Maori Committee chair Hinerauamoia Mohi said she and her whānau were pleased they could come together as partners with council on matters that are essential to the growth and potential of Tūrangi.

"We have been guided by our kaumatua and kuia over the years, they have been clear in their messages. This Mana Whakahono is an important tool in creating space for our hapū to share decision making for our town. We are excited for our future and confident in our vision for our whenua."

## MULTI-TASKING ON TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION



**IT'S BEEN A busy few weeks on the Lake Terrace/ Tītiraupenga Street intersection with our contractors making the most of the good weather to prepare to install the new road layout.**

We have also been taking the opportunity to strengthen stormwater infrastructure while we are working in this area. In addition to installing new stormwater pipes along the roadway, the team is putting in retaining structures to help protect our lake in extreme weather events.

They are also preparing the berm of Northcroft Reserve to have a new shared pathway installed. This pathway will be 3m wide and allow pedestrians and cyclists to safely move through the new intersection.

We hope to start pouring this new shared pathway in a week or two and will keep you updated with any road closures.

## GREAT LAKE CENTRE RAT DISTRIBUTION SITE CLOSED

**THE COVID-19 RAPID Antigen Testing distribution centre operating out of the Great Lake Centre closed this week, with Lakes District Health Board's Covid-19 testing station in Miro Street now the sole supplier of the tests.**

RAT distribution at the Great Lake Centre began operating at the beginning of March, with council staff, councillors and volunteers giving up their weekends and public holidays to staff the site. The eight-week period saw more than 19,000 RAT tests handed out via a drive-through system.

After an initial overwhelming response, the number of tests being collected has dropped, in line with a reduction in the amount of cases in the Taupō district meaning the service can now be handled from the Miro Street site.

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas was delighted with the response from the team.

"We had staff and councillors manning the site to provide this service to our community - in most cases this was over and above their normal workload.

"Our team has been fantastic over the time the site was operating and it was great to see so many people band together to help."

## REUSE, RECYCLE AND REPURPOSE AT TAUPŌ AIRPORT



*Acting airport manager Kim Gard (left) and Taupō Airport Authority chairman Chris Johnston in the existing terminal.*

**TAUPŌ'S EXISTING AIRPORT terminal will soon be replaced by the much larger new building rising up to take its place, but the Taupō Airport Authority is making sure that as much of it as possible will be repurposed instead of heading to landfill.**

Acting airport manager Kim Gard said the new terminal build was going very well, with the roof on and the interior starting to take shape. The new terminal is on track to be completed later this year.

"The construction is really taking shape now and our local contractor Watts Construction are doing a great job," Ms Gard said.

"The new roofline is impressive and the new terminal is going to not only make for a much better user experience for locals but a welcoming introduction to our district for visitors.

"The current terminal has served us well but is not able to

handle the passenger volumes we are expecting to see in coming years. Receiving funding from Central Government, Waka Kotahi and Taupō District Council has been instrumental in creating a remarkable asset for our district."

Chris Johnston of the Taupō Airport Authority is pleased the current terminal will not be destined for landfill.

"We've been working with local company Shelter Architects - formerly Stephenson and Turner - to repurpose and recycle as much of the old terminal as possible," Mr Johnston said. "The contractor we've chosen is aiming to recycle and repurpose up to 85 percent of the existing terminal, with things like steel and aluminium being recycled, concrete crushed and used in construction, and items like the internal timber lining reused.

"We've also been approached by members of the community who are interested in reusing some of the materials and we're keen to try and accommodate that."

