



GREAT LAKE, GREAT PLACE, GREAT PEOPLE

CR ROB HENDERSON

SHINING A LIGHT ON TURANGI

MATARIKI A TIME TO COME TOGETHER

Matariki is the Māori name for the group of stars also known as The Seven Sisters, and is also referred to as the traditional Maori New Year. It is a special time of year for Māori, and to celebrate Taupō Museum and Oruanui Marae are bringing you the Matariki Exhibitions 2011; Our Seven Sisters and Beacons of Light. This unique collection of traditional and contemporary Māori art features the work of approximately 30 artists of Ngāti Tūwharetoa descent.

"This exhibit is an opportunity to bring together so many artists' work in one place, which is what Matariki is all about; coming together," says exhibit Curator Eleazar Manutai Bramley.

'Our Seven Sisters', in the Niven Room, is an exhibition that brings together seven female artists of Ngāti Tūwharetoa descent, including June Grant, Te Maari Gardiner, and Edna Pahewa. All artists have established successful careers and notoriety in contemporary Māori art practice within Aotearoa and on the world stage.

'Beacons of Light', in the main gallery, celebrates the opportunity Matariki provides to come together, share knowledge and skills and learn about the land we live on. Participating artists were asked to focus on this particular aspect when submitting works.

Aotearoa's most celebrated Contemporary Māori writer and local icon Rowley Habib will also be honoured with tribute from another of Maoridom's most prolific writers, Apirana Taylor, on Tuesday 21 June from 12pm.

Eleazar says Matariki is also a time of reflection. "It's a time for remembering the past, and looking to the future, which I think this exhibit does well." It is also a special time for Eleazar, as this will be her first time curating an exhibit, and is also displaying some of her own work.

The event is generously sponsored by Te Kapa o Te Rangīta ki Ōruanui Marae Trustees and Hapū, and Punawhakaata ki Ōruanui Charitable Trust. "This collaboration between the museum and iwi is not only exciting but an important step forward for the arts," says Eleazar, "I think it shows this art has a real connection to the land and its people."

The exhibition runs until 12 July and entry is free to Taupo district residents.

Eleazar with a June Grant original painting



Over the first eight months of the current Council it has been great to see the interest and efforts being put into the Turangi-Tongariro region by fellow Councillors and in particular, Council staff. I believe this renewed commitment recognises the unique features of the region - its markedly youthful population and natural assets - and the benefits to the entire Taupo district of addressing these issues and opportunities.

Examples of these efforts include Council hearing submissions to the Annual Plan in Turangi. Last week Destination Great Lake Taupo held a board meeting and public forum here. Fritz Folke, General Manager Enterprise Great Lake Taupō, is here in Turangi and available to the public every third Monday



under 15 years old). There are submissions for the Tongariro River Trails Project, a range of sporting facilities, and a skate park and playground - all community and economic development initiatives that I believe will have district-wide benefits.

By the time you read this Council will be deliberating on submissions to the Annual Plan, or as Cr Crate recently and accurately stated; the annual 'trade-off'! Thank you

"it has been great to see the interest and efforts being put into the Turangi-Tongariro region"

of the month. And finally, publicity for the hugely successful Turangi Colours Autumn Festival and earlier Vine Aid Festival was appreciated.

Residents and visitors to Turangi will soon see a number of basic infrastructure issues in and around the CBD brought up to standard - including new rubbish bins, a few coats of paint, landscaping improvements, and signage. Turangi-Tongariro will also now be included in Council's tourist 'wayfinding' project, featuring the 'Clip', and applications are for the first time being accepted for the 2011 Great Lake Taupo Business Awards.

In hearing and reading the Annual Plan submissions there is again a distinct reflection of the economic potential to the district of 'natural' tourism and the large youth population (22% of the population of the Turangi/Tongariro ward are aged

to all those in the district who have made submissions and particularly the people who chose to present their opinions to Council. I can assure you that we have all listened, and will consider your efforts with the respect you deserve.

Straight after the Annual Plan, Council will be into setting the 10 year vision for the Long Term Plan (LTP) which directly dictates activities for the years following this annual plan. Given the world of increasing financial and resource constraints, making good choices about what our district needs; what our unique points of difference are; the strategies we choose; and where resources are allocated, is more critical than ever. If you would like more information on the LTP process, or have ideas to share, I urge you to contact Council and become involved.

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No more smoke on the water

Tuesday 31 May marked New Zealand Smokefree Day. It was also the day that Taupō District Council unanimously agreed to a decision for the Taupō Events Centre and AC Baths to become completely 'smokefree' facilities. The idea to extend the smokefree zone to include all outdoor areas was in response to complaints from members of the public to second hand smoke inhalation. Smokers will no longer be able to smoke around the buildings. All Councillors were in agreement that both complexes were for sports and recreation, and that smoking did not fit this healthy image.

WAIORA HOUSE GROWS

Council has just approved the tender for construction work to begin on the extension to Waiora House. The building is home to many of Taupō district's social services, but they have outgrown the available space.

In the 2009 Long Term Plan, Council approved funding of \$523,000 over both the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years to provide additional office space.

The new building planned for the Spa Rd/Motutaiko St site will increase office space from 1258m² to 1664m², and includes 14 offices, two meeting rooms, bathrooms and kitchen facilities.



Did you know that the honey bee is essential to the survival of the New Zealand economy? Our dependence on horticulture and agriculture means we may be more dependent on pollination by bees than any other country. This week is 'Bee Week', and the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand want to raise awareness of the importance of the humble honey bee. Did you know \$5.1 billion of New Zealand's economy is attributable to pollination by honey bees, domestic honey sales and exports, beeswax and exported honey bees, and about one third of our food comes as a direct result of honey bee pollination.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 4 June Matariki Exhibition, Taupō Museum until 12 July
- 5 June Harbour Day Children's Tree Planting Day at Pukawa, contact Jean Stanley on 384 7168
- 6 June Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)
- 7 June Annual Plan deliberations begin

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07 376 0899 OR VISIT WWW.TAUPŌ.GOV.T.NZ

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz



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