

CITY-TO-FOREST CYCLING PATH FOR FENTON STREET



RDC works manager, Peter Dine, on Fenton Street where a new 'share with care' pathway is being constructed.

Works are underway on a new 'share with care' pathway for cyclists and pedestrians along a major stretch of Fenton Street.

The Rotorua District Council (RDC) project will offer cyclists a safe off-road link from the inner city (from Amohou/Fenton streets intersection) all the way to the Te Puia carpark, from where access is available to the Whakarewarewa mountain bike carpark.

The project is part of the council's strategy to develop safe cycling facilities across the district and follows the establishment of cycling lanes in other parts of the city.

RDC works manager, Peter Dine, said the new wider 'share with care' pathway will also provide a link to the national cycleway, Te Ara Ahi, and will help get vulnerable cyclists off the road.

"With the increasing popularity of mountain biking for both locals and visitors to our city, it's great

to be able to provide a facility that safely takes them from the city to the forest. We expect the new pathway to have high use, and enhance people's road cycling experience in Rotorua."

The 'share with care' path is part of the wider Fenton Street upgrade project, which identified three new roundabouts for improving safety along the stretch of road.

"Since the two roundabouts at Devon Street and Marguerita Street intersections have been put in place, the crash rate on Fenton Street has significantly reduced," said Mr Dine. "So over time we'll continue to monitor the crash rate with a view to re-evaluating whether or not the third roundabout at Robertson Street will now be necessary."

The new Fenton Street 'share with care' pathway is expected to be completed by January 2014 and will cost approximately \$200,000.

SCRUB ROTORUA DAY ON TOMORROW

Scrub Rotorua Day, a collaboration between inner city businesses and Rotorua District Council, aimed at cleaning up the central city area, is on Saturday (23 November). It will include eight hours of non-stop live entertainment at City Focus in the heart of the city.

Inner City Focus Group Liaison Officer, Brigitte Nelson, said Scrub Rotorua Day was to encourage inner city retailers and building owners to "clean up their own houses."

"We've had a great response. There have been things happening in the city every day in the lead-up to Scrub Rotorua Day, including the great work council is doing upgrading and landscaping Tutanekai/Pukuatua street intersections, and free parking is soon to get underway. Everyone is working together, and our local retailers are playing their part by making changes to their shop frontages."

Local Rotorua business, MusicWorks, is sponsoring a free family concert at City Focus from 9am to 5pm, featuring Rotorua singers, local musicians, and dancers. There are also prizes to be won including a Yamaha guitar.

RDC's Keep Rotorua Beautiful coordinator, Rose Hiha-Agnew, is coordinating a plant station, where people can come along and help plant marigolds in planter boxes along Tutanekai Street. And for the first time, all 13 fish from RDC's popular and quirky Fish out of Water competition will be on show together as an entire school. A fascinating black and white photo exhibition from Rotorua Museum's archives will also be on display, featuring a selection of historic images showing how the inner city looked as far back as 1895.

The whole community is encouraged to come along, have fun, and get involved in helping to brighten up the streets of Rotorua.

"If everyone makes an effort the city will be shining, and there's even more to come in the future," said Brigitte. "We'll certainly move onwards and upwards if everyone comes together."

FREE PARKING STARTS NEXT MONTH

Rotorua District Council's new parking programme, Park Rotorua, kicks off on 2 December for an 18 month trial. The parking improvements are a direct response to community feedback during public consultation on the council's current Annual Plan.

A key component of Park Rotorua is free two-hour parking (P120) in the immediate inner city area with unlimited time metered parking on the inner city fringes and free unlimited time parking on the perimeter of the city.

It has involved installation of innovative wireless in-ground sensors across approximately 1500 inner city parking spaces, including both metered and P120 bays. The sensors will monitor P120 free parking spaces, providing notifications directly to council staff about parking overstays. Data will also be collated from other sensors about paid and unlimited time parking spaces to help develop future council parking plans.

RDC Inner City Enterprises manager, Nick Dallimore, says the new parking initiative has been designed to provide better parking options for shoppers, visitors, workers and inner city businesses, and to support the growth and revitalisation of Rotorua's central city area.

"This is an exciting development for Rotorua's heart of the city, particularly leading into the busy Christmas period, but beyond that too as we build and regenerate our inner city."

NEW PLANTING SCHEME AT INNER CITY INTERSECTIONS



Council staff planting one of four Tutanekai/Pukuatua street intersections.

Rotorua District Council gardens staff have reconfigured and replanted the four corners of the Pukuatua/Tutanekai street intersections, including laying areas of ready-lawn.

The project introduces a new planting scheme into Rotorua's inner city, with astelia, camellia, cornus nuttali, coprosma and hydrangeas, among other species.

RDC landscape architect, Rebecca Cray, said the upgrade of the Pukuatua/Tutanekai intersections

has been very successful, achieving fantastic results in a short construction period.

"Removal of the old seating bays and increased garden size has created more active space, reduced loitering, and given the street a fresh new look.

"One retailer observed a family sitting on the new lawn on Friday night, enjoying a picnic together. That's exactly what we want to see and encourage in terms of social activity within our inner city."

MORE CYCLE LANES PROVIDING SAFE CYCLING IN ROTORUA

Rotorua District Council has developed new cycle lanes along Warwick Drive in Lynmore as part of an ongoing programme to provide safer walking and cycling access to eastside schools.

The aim of the project, conceived by the Rotorua Cycle Action Group (RCA) and supported by the council, is to improve safety for road users and to complement cycle skills training in local schools. RDC has already created a 'share with care' path along Te Ngae Rd and marked cycle lanes on Morey St. The recently upgraded Lake Road also features a wide path for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists.

RDC transport safety & sustainability coordinator, Niki Carling, said the cycle lanes provide a legitimate, more visible space for cyclists.

"The council's cycling strategy vision is for a district in which people from all sectors of the community regularly cycle for transport and enjoyment. These projects certainly support this goal, as well as RCA's vision of safe cycling and walking routes for all Rotorua schools."



NEW TOILET AND SHOWER FACILITY FOR MOUNTAIN BIKERS



Keen mountain biker, Deputy Mayor Dave Donaldson, checks out works underway at the Waipa mountain bike carpark.

toilet was destroyed by arson.

"We constantly receive complaints about the poor toilets and about environmental concerns around the proximity of the Puarenga Stream.

"We've incorporated the new facilities into a creative design serving as an impressive entranceway to Whakarewarewa Forest. People will be able to cycle through the middle of the building and over the top to get into the forest.

Rotorua deputy mayor Dave Donaldson, a keen mountain biker and trustee of the Home of Cycling Trust, said it was great to see the toilet block under construction.

"The new facilities have got recreational users really excited. They're going to add to our district's growing reputation as a mountain biking destination

of international acclaim.

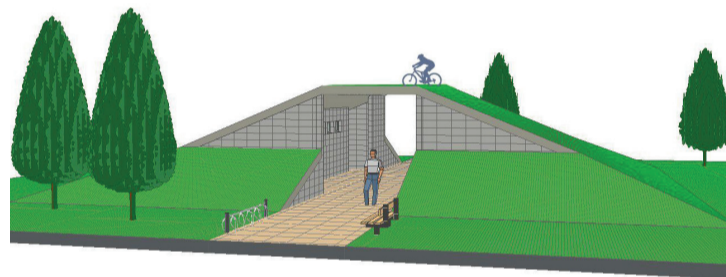
"The new toilet and shower building is going to be outstanding – practical and functional, as well as providing a strong sense of arrival for mountain bikers and other users of the forest."

The new facilities at the Waipa carpark are expected to be completed by the end of March 2014.

Meanwhile, a new 24-hour public toilet facility has opened outside the RDC's Visitor Centre & i-SITE.

The \$85,000 toilet project will improve after-hours service for bus patrons.

The new facilities are part of the council's strategy to improve public toilet facilities across the district, and follow on from the recent opening of new toilet facilities at The Redwoods Forest & Visitor Centre.



Artist's impression of the new Waipa mountain bike toilet facility.

Site works have started on an innovative new toilet, shower and changing facility at the Waipa mountain bike carpark, with the building featuring an overhead cycle bridge and providing a stunning gateway into Whakarewarewa Forest.

The new \$495,000 council facility will feature 12 toilets including provision for disabled users and four showers with changing room space.

A cycle pathway through the centre of the unit, will lead mountain bikers into the forest's network of trails, with the structural design providing another cycle route across the top of the building.

RDC Parks & Recreation manager, Garry Page, said toilet facilities at the Waipa mountain bike carpark have been inadequate for almost seven years, after a composting

EAT STREET TO WOW DINERS FROM CHRISTMAS



Eat Street dining and entertainment precinct on Tutanekai Street.

Construction of Eat Street, Rotorua's specialist dining and entertainment precinct, is progressing well with most of the timber portal structure now in place, highlighting the large scale of the central covered structure.

RDC Inner City Enterprises manager Nick Dallimore said

once roofing installation had been completed, scaffolding would be removed and the site tidied and readied for public use by 20 December.

A site blessing will take place before Christmas with the official opening held over to the New Year following completion

of finishing components. These include timber dividers between each business space, wooden windbreaks at each end of Eat Street, vertical see-through roller blinds and retractable overhead canopies, all scheduled for installation soon after Waitangi weekend.

YOUTH COUNCIL TO HOST BALL

Local teens are being given the opportunity this year to glam up and welcome the summer holidays with a Christmas themed formal.

Rotorua District Youth Council, in collaboration with Ira Matatau Active Youth Citizenship Programme, is hosting the Christmas Youth Ball next month.

The event for 15 to 18 year olds will be held on Thursday 12 December from 7.30pm to midnight at Energy Events Centre. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Rotorua Visitor Centre & i-SITE.

RDC youth projects officer, Jill Campbell, said the youth ball will provide a fun and affordable Christmas event for local teenagers to welcome the summer school holidays, and an end to the year's studies and exams.

"We also want to provide this experience for young people who may not have had the opportunity to attend their high school ball. With many school balls costing an average of \$100 per ticket, we wanted to minimise the cost as much as possible."

BRIEFLY

YOUNG ROTORUA LEADERS WANTED

The council is on the lookout for the city's future leaders and is seeking applications from young people for the 2014 Rotorua District Youth Council.

RDYC meets fortnightly to discuss current youth issues, learn about local government and decision-making, get involved in the community, and help give Rotorua youth a voice. Youth councillors also support and organise youth events and activities, and participate in various local and national initiatives.

Application forms are available from the council website, with applications closing 2 December at 5pm.

RECYCLING CENTRE FOR YOUR OLD TV

RDC is encouraging locals to drop-off their old unusable television sets at the Rotorua Recycling Centre as the city prepares to go digital on 1 December.

The council is participating in the government's TV TakeBack programme, an initiative to encourage people to recycle their unwanted television sets, diverting them from landfill.

Local residents have long been able to drop their old TVs off at Rotorua's recycling centre, however the government will help subsidise the council's costs during the TV TakeBack programme.

MAYORAL VEHICLE GOES ELECTRIC

Mayor Steve Chadwick has been given the keys to a fuel efficient Toyota Camry Hybrid to replace the less economical Holden SV6 mayoral car.

The new electric-petrol hybrid fits the needs of the mayor who regularly has to travel within the district, across the region and elsewhere in the North Island, to attend meetings and forums. It seats five passengers and has all necessary safety features. The net cost after the sale of the previous mayoral vehicle is expected to be less than \$20,000.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Community consultation on the council's new Rotorua 2030 vision starts soon.
- There will be many opportunities for residents to give their views to councillors.
- Rotorua 2030 includes seven key broad goals for the council and community.
- It also includes four main priorities to be achieved together by 2016.
- Residents will also be able to comment on the draft vision and priorities online.

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Rotorua District Council, Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre, Rotorua 3046

Phone: 07 348 4199
Hours: 8am - 5pm Mon - Fri

mail@rdc.govt.nz
www.rdc.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/RotoruaDistrictCouncil