

## PARTNERSHIPS POWERING INNER CITY REVITALISATION



Pukeroa Oruawhata Holdings chairman Malcolm Short (right) with local 'Jake Seat' designer Jake Krebs, in Tutanekai Street.

The power of partnerships is proving to be a successful factor in reinvigorating Rotorua's inner city. One excellent example has been the installation of new public seating along Tutanekai Street. Inner City Revitalisation Portfolio lead, Councillor Karen Hunt, says old seating bays have been progressively replaced by new polished wooden seats designed in a silver fern shape by young local designer Jake Krebs. "A funding partnership with

a number of local businesses has meant we've been able to construct and install 16 of the new seats in the inner city - and they've been very well-received by people coming into town," says Ms Hunt. "Many visitors have been quite taken by the unique design of these artistic pieces of street furniture." Nine of the seats have been sponsored by Te Arawa's business arm, Pukeroa

Oruawhata Holdings, owners of 95 properties including Rotorua Central mall. Pukeroa Oruawhata chairman Malcolm Short says his organisation sees itself as very much a part of the central city. "We're pleased to be in partnership with the council to help beautify the inner city and to assist with its development." Other seats have been sponsored by Homes Group (2), TBP Ltd (1), Neighbourly website (1) and the council (3).

## TE ARAWA PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATION

At a special council meeting yesterday afternoon (Thursday 26 February) Rotorua Lakes Council adopted a Statement of Proposal on a Te Arawa Partnership Model for public consultation. The proposal had been "approved in principle" at a meeting in December last year (18 December) following a presentation to the council by representatives of Te Arawa. The model includes the establishment of a Te Arawa Board which would submit nominations for possible appointment by the mayor and councillors to certain council committees, RMA consent hearing panels and strategic working groups. The two Te Arawa Board representatives on the council's

Strategy, Policy & Finance Committee, and its Operations & Monitoring Committee, would have voting rights. The Statement of Proposal, submission form and other information will be available to the public from Monday 2 March from Rotorua Lakes Council's Customer Centre, District Library, City Focus and from the council website [www.rotorualakescouncil.nz](http://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz). Submissions can be provided to the council on the feedback form, or online from the council website up until 17 April. To assist Rotorua residents with preparing submissions, a series of public information sessions will be held at various venues across the district and details will be publicised once the schedule is finalised.

## FOUR NEW SCULPTURES FOR ROTORUA

Four sculptures from the city's recent Sulphur Lake Sculpture Symposium have been added to the council's permanent public art collection. The sculptures now form the evolving Sulphur Lake Sculpture Trail in Government Gardens as part of the council's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings during the First World War. The council acquired the winning piece, Anna Korver's The White Mouse, and was given first option to purchase a second piece, selecting Rory McDougall's The Ghost Soldier. Rotorua Trust purchased a further two of the sculptures for the city, Forever Remembered and Tank Trap by local artists Paul Bottomley and Jamie Pickernell.

## LOCALS SOUGHT FOR PRE-ELECTION REVIEW

Rotorua Lakes Council is on the lookout for three people interested in representing the wider community on a working party to review council representation arrangements ahead of the next local government elections in 2016. The working party, to be chaired by Councillor Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, will comprise six members in total, including sitting councillors Tania Tapsell and Charles Sturt and three independent community members. Cr Raukawa Tait said the working party would lead an active community engagement process for the review over the next few months. "As a working party we'll be engaging with residents

to hear their different perspectives, assessing the community feedback we receive, researching what's happening elsewhere, then making recommendations for the council to consider. Anyone interested in being considered for a place on the Representation Review Working party can submit an expression-of-interest by sending the council a single typed page setting out their experience and relevant background, and outlining why they would be suitable for the working party. Expressions-of-interest close on 4 March 2015, and can be delivered or posted to Rotorua Lakes Council, attention Rick Dunn, or emailed to [rick.dunn@rdc.govt.nz](mailto:rick.dunn@rdc.govt.nz).

## ROTORUA ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE UP

Rotorua's economic future is looking increasingly positive according to a new independent survey. The 2014 Business & Public Confidence Survey shows improved confidence in Rotorua over the next 12 months across most economic measures. Local businesses surveyed recorded high confidence for the district in six out of seven economic indicators - general business conditions, unemployment, economic activity, purchasing, residential construction and commercial construction - while confidence was steady for increased promotional activity. Rotorua Lakes Council's

Economic Growth Portfolio lead, Cr Dave Donaldson, said the survey showed conditions were generally aligning well for Rotorua in terms of expectations of more economic activity in the future. "The survey suggests both the general public and the business community have growing confidence that our local economy has turned the corner and is on the way up. "These results would appear to be backed up by other recent indicators i - things like an increase in the value of building consents, higher retail sales, strong tourism activity and the successful attraction of major events to Rotorua."

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WELCOMED



Mayor Steve Chadwick has welcomed Waiariki Institute of Technology's new international students to the district during a presentation at the council Civic Centre. She said it was a pleasure to welcome the international students as they embark on their new journey of learning and discovery.



## TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION PROMOTES CITY'S LANDSCAPES



Visitors from Los Angeles, Michael Wang and children Sam and Kevin, enjoying the new art installation at the Lakefront.

A new temporary art installation at the Lakefront is being photographed by hundreds of visitors to the city, with Lake Rotorua and Mokoia Island serving as a scenic backdrop to their photos.

The unique installation, called 'IMAG\_NE' features giant Scrabble letters assembled to spell out the word IMAGINE - but with the second 'i' missing. People are encouraged to become part of the artwork by standing in the gap to recreate the missing 'i' with their body.

It will be relocated to Government Gardens later, where Rotorua Museum will provide another scenic backdrop to photographs of the work until the end of April.

RLC secured the art installation on loan from Australian artist Emma Anna. Inner City Revitalisation Portfolio lead, Cr Karen Hunt, said bringing the artwork to Rotorua was possible through the council's 'Percent for Art' programme.

"This temporary art installation supports the council's and community's Rotorua 2030 goal around inner city revitalisation, but it also complements our creative communities and economic growth goals as well.

"It's a piece of art that people can engage with and become part of, and I'm sure it's going to be as well received and enjoyed here as it has been in other parts of the globe."

## CELEBRATE 75 – COMMUNITY CONCERT FOR CIVIC THEATRE

Rotorua Lakes Council is inviting local performing artists to showcase their talent at Rotorua Civic Theatre's 75th birthday celebrations in July.

The council is seeking expressions of interest from community members and groups wanting to be part of the 'Celebrate 75' variety concert.

The concert will be a celebration of the performing arts over the past 75 years - from the 1940s through to today - with each era highlighted in 10 minute performance sections.

RLC Creative Communities portfolio lead, Councillor Glenys Searancke, said the Civic Theatre is a much-loved

community facility and this celebration will be a genuine partnership between the council and local residents.

"Celebrate 75' will provide an exciting opportunity for local singers, dancers and other entertainers to showcase their talents to the community while celebrating the big birthday."

Those wishing to be involved need to complete an expression-of-interest form available from the RLC Customer Centre or by contacting Richard Marshall by email on richard.marshall@rdc.govt.nz or by phone on 07 348 4199.

Forms need to be submitted to the council by 31 March 2015.

## BOIL-UP A CHANCE FOR CREATIVE SECTOR TO HAVE ITS SAY

Rotorua's creative community is being asked to help develop a creative strategy for the district.

The Boil-up forum is being held in March to share and brainstorm ideas for a strategy to guide the council's Creative Communities portfolio.

Local musicians, artists, performers, designers, educators, digital game designers, architects, graphic artists - or anyone interested in how creativity can be harnessed for the good of Rotorua - are being encouraged to register for the event.

The council's Creative Communities portfolio lead, Cr Glenys Searancke, said Rotorua's creative community will provide a significant contribution to the strategy and she was looking forward to some dynamic dialogue at Boil-up.

"It's not just for the artists and craftspeople out there. You could, for example, be an inner city business owner interested in how the arts can support inner city revitalisation, and you may like to attend with that hat on."

RLC Creative Communities lead advisor, Tania Short, says the creative strategy is being developed through a community-led approach.

"A boil-up is a Kiwi favourite - meat and vegies thrown in a pot, resulting in a tasty and satisfying meal. We think it's a great metaphor for the mix of creative people in our community developing a pot full of ideas and coming up with an exciting creative strategy for the district."

Anyone interested can sign-up to the registration page online at [tinyurl.com/qxztaq9](http://tinyurl.com/qxztaq9).

## WORK UNDERWAY ON FIRST STAGE OF GREEN CORRIDOR



Work is now underway on the first stage of the new Green Corridor in Kuirau Park.

Work on the first stage of Rotorua's new Green Corridor pathway is now underway.

The Kuirau Park section of the project will see existing pathways extended and widened to provide a compressed lime-chip 'shared path' for pedestrians, cyclists and others on wheels to use.

Rotorua Lakes Council's Sports & Recreation Portfolio lead, Councillor Charles Sturt, said the pathway will initially connect up with the existing cycleway to Ngongotaha at the northern Lake Road side of Kuirau Park. It will wind its way through the park to

the southern side, connecting with the Saturday market site.

He said depending on weather conditions, this phase of the Green Corridor project should be ready for use before the Crankworx Rotorua mountain bike festival gets underway in late March.

"Contractors will be trying to minimise disruption to park users as much as possible however we'd ask people to exercise caution and keep a close eye on children in the vicinity of vehicles and machinery in the park over the next few weeks."

## BRIEFLY

### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NETBALL CHAMPS IN ROTORUA

Rotorua has secured hosting rights for this year's Trans Tasman Secondary Schools Netball competition.

The event is to be staged at the Energy Events Centre from May 25 to May 28 this year.

Eight teams from Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific Islands are expected to participate.

### SPARE BIKES AND PARTS SOUGHT FOR GIANT BIKE TREE

Rotorua Lakes Council needs old bikes and bike pieces to help construct a giant 'bike tree' on the Village Green to coincide with Crankworx Rotorua.

Bikes can be dropped off at the council's City Clean premises in Pukuatua Street (driveway between carpark building and Bedstop furniture store) on Friday, Saturday and Sunday this week (27 February-1 March) between 9am and 12 noon.

### FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Funding for projects that strengthen neighbourhoods is available through the council's Neighbourhood Matching Fund.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available every month and applications for larger grants of up to \$35,000 can be made three times a year. Projects such as neighbourhood clean-ups, events and community gardens have previously been funded.

For more information go to [rotorualakescouncil.nz](http://rotorualakescouncil.nz) and click on the 'Our City' tab, then 'Community Development' and through to 'Grants and Funding'.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Rotorua Lakes Council is celebrating Children's Day over the next three days.
- Rotorua Library mascot Fletcher the Tuatara celebrates the first of his 10th birthday celebrations at the library today (27 February) at 3.30pm.
- Fletcher is having a second party at the library tomorrow at 1.30pm.
- Children and their families are invited to help create an outdoor art installation at The Arts Village tomorrow from 10am.
- Aquatic Centre, Museum and The Redwoods are hosting fun events for children on Sunday.
- For more information on Children's Day go to [rotorualakescouncil.com](http://rotorualakescouncil.com).

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

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