

Maintaining the momentum

There's no doubt Papakura is in the throes of a transformation. As the Streetscape enhancement of the town centre hits top gear, Broadway has seen its whole road surface removed and replaced, comfortable seats, new lights, new rubbish bins and street trees installed and the flow of traffic returned to two-way, easing pressure on Great South Road at peak times.

O'Shannessey Street sees the same enhancement, with revised pedestrian crossings giving easier, safer access to each side of the street, trees and street lights installed and a new look that makes the street emphatically a part of the town centre.

Now it's Great South Road's turn: the Mainstreet phase of our re-development of the town centre has begun. In addition to Great South Road, attention will also be paid to Averill Street and Queen Street in this phase.

Two big projects will then remain in the Streetscape enhancement programme for the town centre – the new town square, and the northern gateway on the village green at the intersection of Queen Street and Great South Road.

Outside the town centre, new subdivisions are well under way and the Council is on target to cater for the significant population



Marking out the new Northern Gateway

growth they bring. The necessary services are being set in place to link these new residential centres to our infrastructure.

The massive stormwater catchment pond system at Artillery Drive, completed in 2006 and believed to be one of the largest

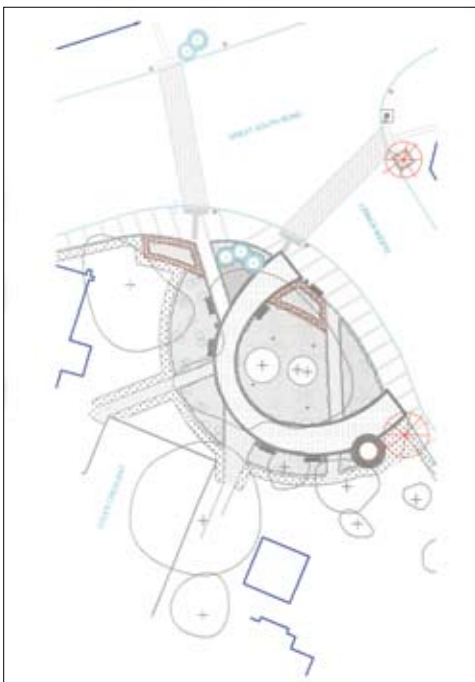
such systems in the southern hemisphere, will be connected to the Manukau harbour by a new outlet tunnel. This will significantly improve the quality of stormwater entering the harbour.

Focus on community

Papakura enters 2008 in great shape. As always, the district is host to a diverse range of cultural, sporting and community events and the month of March offers a taste of what is coming up throughout the year.

Cycling, kayaking and canoe paddling, Scottish pipe bands and a full-on weekend of family fun are in store in early March when the Pahurehure Inlet Canoe and Kayak Day, national pipe band competitions and the Papakura Mayoral Cycle Challenge all happen over two weekends.

As District News went to press, large numbers of Papakura cyclists were preparing to take part in the 2008 Mayoral



Plan of the Northern Gateway work under way at the Village Green

In this issue

Snug homes for Papakura
Providing warmer, healthier homes

MOTAT says thanks
Free entry for Papakura residents

Transit NZ
Developing Papakura's on-ramp capacity

► Challenge, a competition to see which of the region's Mayors can get the most people out following them on a bike ride. This event on March 2 starts with free bike safety checks and rider registrations at Central Park and takes riders to Youngs Reserve, where spot prizes including the Mayor's brand new Avanti bike will be distributed in a draw for all those who took part.

There's more to come: pipe bands from around New Zealand will play at Bruce Pulman Park Saturday and Sunday March 8 and 9 in a national event that begins with a street march through downtown Papakura on the Saturday. It's a national event that is making a welcome return to the Auckland region after a prolonged absence.

On Sunday March 9 between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm Youngs Reserve will be the venue for the second Pahurehure Inlet Canoe and Kayak family fun day.

Organised by Pahurehure Inlet Protection Society with the support of Counties Manukau Sport and Papakura District Council, the event will offer families and young

people the chance to try out canoes and kayaks, take part in a range of sports and games and enjoy a sausage sizzle or bring their own picnic lunch.

The day is supported by the Yakkity Yak kayak club, YMCA, Auckland Canoe Club and Papakura Sea Scouts. Now in its second year, the event highlights the inlet's potential as a recreational asset to the district.

Bikes are again to the fore on March 18 when Papakura holds its annual Cycle Carnival, this year at the Massey Park sports ground. The carnival is for school-age children and aims to help improve their riding skills and awareness of safe riding behaviour. Information about the event will be provided to the district's schools in the form of flyers and posters.

The event will be organised by Injury Prevention Papakura and supported by the Council, and the contact person is Police Education Officer Karen Purdie phone 295-0356 or email: karen.purdie@police.govt.nz

MOTAT says thanks

The Museum of Transport and Technology is offering Papakura residents free entry between Monday March 10 and Sunday March 16. Papakura District Council makes an annual financial contribution to MOTAT, and the free week is the Museum's way of saying thank-you. Bring this copy of District News or a Papakura rates bill to MOTAT for free admission for families (two adults and up to four children under 16).

Things to do and see include: Special FX: Secrets Behind The Screen exhibition, Machines That Count exhibition, Voyager 1, Tactile Dome, the Mirror Maze. There are tram, steam train and military vehicle rides and tours of MOTAT's aviation hangar including the Mark IV Solent Flying Boat. Free trams run between MOTAT sites. See www.motat.org.nz for further details and activity times.

Snug homes for Papakura

Papakura is part of a project to help provide warmer, more healthy homes for the community. Up to 100 Papakura houses will receive free insulation under the programme, with priority given to families with children who are unwell due to living in cold and damp conditions.

To qualify, houses must have been built before 1977 and the owner or occupier must have – or be eligible for – a community services card. More information is available at www.ecoinsulation.co.nz or by phoning Ecoinsulation on 477 0270.

Makeover time

Project Town Centre is a Council initiative to encourage landlords and property owners to upgrade the exterior of commercial buildings in the town centre. The Council has subsidised the cost of the paint for the project, and buildings in the town centre are being cleaned up and repainted using a complementary palette of colours supplied by Colour Plus Trend Decor.

Wadams Menswear and the Amcal Chemist on Great South Road have already been given the exterior makeover treatment. Two further building owners are now considering joining the project.



Work programme update

This column sets out Papakura District Council's major roading, water and other work - recently completed, in progress and planned. A regular feature of District News, it helps keep the residents of Papakura up to date with what the Council is doing.

Parks and recreation work completed in January and February

- Playground under-surfacing renewals
- Raising the canopies of trees in Central Park to improve sight lines
- Park Check survey
- New path to Central Park toilets
- Swing renewal at Challen Reserve

Parks and recreation work currently underway

- Upgrades at Don Street Housing for the Elderly
- New park signs design and construction
- Hingaia Stream bank stabilisation
- Upgrade to Great South Road end of Village Green
- Installing bollards in Ray Small car park

Parks and recreation work planned for March and April

- Juvenile mangrove removal
- Upgrade of Pukeroa Playground
- Beginning of coastal planting programme at Walter Stevens Esplanade and Youngs Beach Park
- Preparation for new Village Green toilets
- Preparation for street tree planting on Great South Road, Takanini

Roading work completed in January and February

- Footpath renewals: 700 metres
- Resealing works: 8000 metres
- Hingaia Road/Hinau Road intersection improvements
- O'Shannessey Street upgrade: asphalt complete, minor work in footpath area continues

Roading work in progress

- Ron Keat Drive pedestrian improvement work: asphaltting of carparks
- Rosehill Drive pavement rehabilitation work
- Papakura Mainstreet upgrade

Roading work programmed for March and April

- Papakura Clevedon Road: pavement rehabilitation
- Footpath renewals: 200 metres

- New footpath: 600 metres
- Road resealing works: 7000 metres

Stormwater work completed in December 2007 and January 2008

Pipe renewals and upgrades:

- Intersection of Great South Road and O'Shannessey Street
- Culvert outlet improvement in Fitzgerald Road

Stormwater work currently under way

- Pipe upgrade in Fitzgerald Road
- Open drain bank restoration in Bremner Road
- Stormwater upgrade in Scott Road and George Street
- Completion of pipeworks in central business area

Stormwater work programmed for March and April

- Stormwater upgrade in Arimu Road
- Stormwater improvement in Fitzgerald Road
- Redhill Road stormwater outfall to Dominion Road
- Open channel improvement in Tironui Station Road East
- Debris trap for creek in Flanagan Road



Work begins on the Streetscape enhancement of the town square



Transit develops Papakura on-ramp capacity

New stormwater catchment ponds, on-ramp signal lights and dual lanes feeding traffic onto the southern motorway are being developed at the Papakura motorway on-ramp.

The work is part of Transit's broader programme of installing on-ramp "feeder" light systems to regulate motorway traffic flows. The on-ramp is being rebuilt to what Transit describes as correct geometric standards and is expected to be operational soon.

When finished, the expanded on-ramp will feature two north-bound lanes, giving traffic from Karaka and Papakura itself an easier entry to the motorway.

On-ramp signal lights will phase traffic into the motorway during peak hours.

As part of the project and a requirement of its resource consent from Auckland Regional Council, Transit is also installing new stormwater catchment ponds in the centre of the grassed area inside the on-ramp.

The work under way is not part of the planned Papakura interchange upgrade, which is being developed separately.



Papakura District Council
Private Bag 7, Papakura
35 Coles Crescent, Papakura
Customer Service Centre: 09 295 1300
Email: customerservice@papakura.govt.nz
Website: www.papakura.govt.nz

Safe with Age

A "heads up" course for older drivers that provides tips and strategies for dealing with today's busy streets, Safe with Age will be held in Papakura over the coming months.

Attendance at this theory-based course is free and those who enrol and take part will receive a handbook and a \$30 voucher toward practical coaching and assessment by a certified and approved driving instructor.

The course will be held at the Old Central School Hall, 57 Wood Street, Papakura from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm on Monday March 31, Tuesday April 8, Thursday May 22, Thursday June 26 and Monday July 21. Morning tea is provided. Bookings by phoning Age Concern on 279 4331 extension 800.

PHOTO GALLERY

Rocket into Reading



Papakura Art Gallery
New Beginnings exhibition

