



Enhancing our place

The leadership that a Council must exercise today is much broader than that of building roads and directing storm-water. As citizens, you expect your Council to improve not only the physical state of our district, but also what has been called "...the emotional state of urban space through creative means."

We all want to be proud of our Papakura district. We want to understand how it has developed over the eight hundred years of mankind's connection with it. We want to play a part in making its future.

Our town centre is going through a regeneration phase, and its surrounding landscapes are being shaped faster than ever before.

As our district evolves, valuing the arts, culture, and heritage by investing in them is important. Through such investment our community will express itself. We will promote creativity, and build community capacity. This issue includes information designed to both inform you and to engage you. Enjoy it.

John Robertson
Mayor



A concept showing how the new arts and culture centre would fit into Central Park

Spotlight on arts and culture

"Art challenges us. It broadens our horizons. It asks us to think beyond the limits of conventional wisdom."

Eli Broad, art collector

Art and culture is a strong presence in Papakura, and moves are under way to create a new permanent home for many such groups and activities.

Consultation has just closed on the concept for an arts and culture centre to be located in Central Park, creating a southern gateway to the town centre and supporting further development of that park of the central business area.

With a floor area of almost 1700 square metres, the new centre will bring a wide range of arts, cultural activities, investigations of heritage, community classes other similar interests together in one location.

It will incorporate the existing Central School building, and will be designed as a campus that links old and new and features art and activity workshops, exhibition areas and educational spaces.

The park's existing trees will be retained as the design is finalised and the centre is constructed.

A key aspect of the new centre will be involvement of the people of Papakura – to be successful, any such facility must reflect and encourage the talents and aspirations of the community it serves.

With the support of the community and confirmation of funding, the project could be in construction as soon as the later part of 2008.

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▶ The next step for the project will be for Papakura District Council to consider the submissions received during the consultation period and evaluate whether any final changes to the concept are required.

Also located at Central Park is a new playground which will have its own artistic expression in a pebble mosaic laid between the swings, slides and seating.

Many aspects of the development of Central Park are geared toward artistic or cultural expression. In addition to the playground's pebble mosaic and the art and culture centre proposal, planning is well under way for an outdoor event facility that replaces the stage previously sited in the southern end of the park.

Community performances such as the district's annual Carols evening featuring massed choirs from local schools make use of this part of Central Park, and it is planned to have the new outdoor events facility complete in time for this year's Carols event.

Art and culture are also beginning to be a theme in the town centre, and the Council's Streetscape enhancement programme is looking at opportunities to include art works in public spaces such as the town square; art groups regularly display recent works in Selwyn Arcade and the Sir Edmund Hillary Library; and of course Papakura's artists have a consistently high profile at Papakura Art Gallery in Averill Street behind Selwyn Arcade.

North of the town centre, the upgraded subway that passes beneath the railway line will also be a focus for art and culture, with approval given for a local artist to design a mosaic that picks up themes of the district's heritage.

The performing arts are also well catered for, with strong local theatre groups and also the Hawkins Centre, a community asset that is used for a wide range of functions including the annual visit of the Baby Proms, local school theatrical productions and more. The centre was recently the practice venue for the stage show *Maui – one man against the Gods*.

As Papakura develops through coming decades, providing for articulations of artistic and cultural creativity and recognising the heritage of the district will become ever more important.

The district is planning well for the future by allowing for and encouraging these facets of community expression now.



Papakura Arts Group featured the work of members in a display at Sir Edmund Hillary Public Library last month. Among those showing their work was Allan Strickland, who added "interactive" and topical interest by putting the finishing touches to his painting of the Papakura War Memorial - just in time for Anzac Day

Enhancing our town centre

STREETSCAPE
The heart of the district

The Streetscape enhancement of the town centre is making great progress. Essential stormwater upgrade work in East Street, Elliott Street and Great South Road is nearing completion, which in turn will enable work to start on installing new street lighting, trees, seats and rubbish bins in these areas.

A detail plan is now being developed for the town square area. It will feature new plantings, new seats, lighting, and a shelter to be built around the clock tower for pedestrians waiting to cross Broadway.

A northern and southern "gateway" developments that gives a sense of arrival to the town centre is also progressing, with the concept to include a new location for the Nikau palms currently in planter boxes along Great South Road.

On Broadway, stormwater and road surface enhancements will soon begin, and the re-design of that area will significantly improve pedestrian use and safety. Traffic will be returned to two-way, improving traffic circulation, and it will once more be possible to turn right on Broadway from O'Shannessey Street.

To the east of the town centre, Auckland Regional Transport Authority's upgrade of the rail station is also progressing and the completion target is mid-July. The upgrade is designed to accommodate increasing commuter numbers at what is already the third busiest rail station in the greater Auckland area. New overbridges will help feed pedestrian traffic through to their cars and to the town centre.

These columns set out Papakura District Council's major roading, water and other work - recently completed, in progress and planned. It will be a regular feature of District News to help keep the residents of Papakura up to date with what the Council is doing.

Roading work completed in March and April 2007

- Hot mix resealing – 1.0 km
- Chip sealing – 1.5 km
- Footpath renewals – 1.0 km
- Construction of new footpath – 670 m on Hunua Rd and Boundary Rd
- Road surface smoothing work on Ponga Rd from the intersection of Harry Dreadon Road south east for approximately 1 km

Roading work programmed for May and June 2007

- Broadway revitalisation project: new surfacing to be started after the stormwater work is complete. Changing Broadway traffic flow to two-way. On completion of the project, traffic will be able to travel in both directions, with the one-way section opened up to two-way traffic improving circulation and access for the town centre.
- Great South Road/Beach Road intersection upgrade. Rehabilitation of road surfaces within the intersection and an upgrade of the traffic signal hardware to improve the southbound traffic flows through the intersection,
- Rehabilitation of Beach Rd road surface west bound from Great South Road/Beach Road intersection.
- Kerb and channel improvement works – 340m

Stormwater work completed during March and April 2007

- Stormwater upgrade in Papakura town centre. This project, which began in February is still in progress. Drainage work along Great South Road is under way. In order to minimise disturbance to businesses and the public, most of the work will be carried out at night.
- Waterview Road stormwater extension/upgrade: this project is to upgrade the stormwater network around Arimu Road and Waterview Road East intersection. The first stage of the project is completed and the second stage is now under way.
- Waimana stormwater trunk line: Watercare Services Ltd, on behalf of Papakura District Council, is currently constructing a trunk line from the railway line to the Manukau Harbour through Waimana Reserve. This will meet the needs of population growth in the Takanini area. Target for completion is mid-2007



Central Park playground upgrade

Stormwater work programmed for next summer 2007/08:

- Artillery Drive Tunnel: A tunnel is being designed to carry stormwater from McLennan Reserve (next to Artillery Drive Road) to the Manukau Harbour. Construction is planned for summer 2007/08.
- Continuation of the stormwater upgrade in the town centre area
- Construction of a pond in the "Drury Triangle" area (next to Slippery Creek). This project is to support residential development in Drury.

Waste water work currently under way

- Drury Pump Station upgrade – Watercare has completed construction of the pump station and is currently testing it. It is expected that this pump station will be opened in the near future and will enable the waste water system to cope with development in the Drury and Hingaia areas.
- Takanini wastewater trunkline: alongside the stormwater trunk line Watercare Services Ltd is building a new waste water connection to meet the needs of population growth in the Takanini area. This is progressing as planned. Target for completion is mid-2007

Parks and recreation work completed between March and April 2007

- Margan's Bush track - link to Brooke Road (in partnership with Lions and the Friends of Margans Bush)
- Landscaping at Keri Downs Skatepark

Parks and recreation work currently under way

- Walkway at Gills Ave Esplanade (in partnership with Rotary)
- Central Park Playground
- Public toilets at Ray Small Park
- Young mangrove removal at Pahurehure Inlet

Parks and recreation work planned for coming months

- Chichester Reserve Playground
- Basketball hoop at Keri Downs Park
- Wharf Street - Coles Crescent walkway extension

Born to carve

A passion for his art and a keen interest in the wellbeing of the Papakura community are guiding forces that have shaped Ngati Tamaoho master carver Ted Ngataki's life.

Papakura born and bred, Ted was raised by his grandparents Ted and Tori Kirkwood, who gently guided him into the path his life has taken. They instilled in him the humble disposition that would enable him to lead his people, while his uncle Riki Kirkwood passed down the hands-on secrets of the master carver.

Carving quickly became a part of Ted's life. When his uncle Riki died, Ted took over the role of master carver for his hapu and iwi – one of the youngest master carvers for Tainui.

In the years since, Ted has carved for many marae throughout his tribal area, and has also helped out with carving projects in other areas. Equally at home creating new works or recreating existing carvings, he carved Ngati Tamaoho's whareniui (above right) at the tribe's own marae, Whatapaka in Karaka. There, he is described as kaumatua, carver and "MacGyver" for his willingness to tackle everything and anything required.

Ted's wife Waiata and his whanau have supported him immensely in all his work. While it is traditional for appropriately trained male members of the family to help directly with the carving work, the women also contribute by weaving the tukutuku panels that adorn the walls of the whareniui.

One thing his friends and family agree: when it comes to helping with carving projects, the size and scope of the project don't matter – Ted's answer is invariably "yes"! He has a unique relationship with other carvers, an innate leadership quality that can bring together a powerfully talented group to complete major carving projects.

Young people are a key focus, and Ted has already brought many into the world of traditional carving. One of Ted's long-standing hopes is to establish a carving school and devote his energy to passing on the whole tradition of carving to future generations – not simply churning out commercial pieces for sale to the public, but working from the initial ritual and prayers around the selection of timber all the way through carving, installation and finally dedication of the work.



One of his most public works stands at Kidz First Children's Hospital at Middlemore, a carving of a mother and child. Ted also carved the whare for Tiaho Mai, the Middlemore Mental Health Unit.

Among all his carving to date there is one that performs a unique role, welcoming international visitors to New Zealand at Auckland International Airport – perhaps the highest international profile for any such carving.

One of his other long-term passions is rugby. A strong association with Papakura Rugby Club continues today, and Ted is often seen working at the rugby club as he does for the marae – family describe it as his second home, and it's another way of connecting with, and helping, young people.

For his quiet dedication to his art, for his active involvement and unflinching interest in the wellbeing of the Papakura community, Ted Ngataki deserves far more recognition than his humble nature will ever allow.

Papakura Photo Gallery

Kids' Big Day Out



Li'l Harmonies



Canoe and Kayak Day

