



OTUMUHEKE COMES UP TRUMPS

We've been awarded the Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) Minister of Local Government's Award for innovation in council and community relations.

The Otumuheke restoration development and restoration project was judged to be the best collaborative effort and use of local resources.

The beautification project involved a wide range of people across both Taupō District Council and Waikato Regional Council. Other organisations and partners from across our district were pivotal to the successful outcome, with Patuiwi Māori Reserve Trust, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Department of Conservation, Taupō Police and local building contractors all putting in lots of hard work!

Funding for the upgrade came from us and the government's Regional Mid-Sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund, with The Craters of the Moon Trust contributing to the new bridge.

Landscape architect Fraser Scott was happy to receive the award following the huge effort from everyone added up to a fantastic finished product we can all enjoy.

"It really is a wonderful drawcard for our district and something we can all be proud of," he said.

"As far as beautification projects goes – this is a great example of a community wanting to look after the place we love and, in this case, improve and preserve the Otumuheke area."

Some final finishing touches were added earlier this year in February when local artist Gary Bennett painted a mural on the changing facilities, adding to the new seating, bridge, café area, viewing platform and planting.

