



GREAT LAKE, GREAT PLACE, GREAT PEOPLE

MAYOR RICK COOPER

FOCUSING ON THE SILVER LININGS

BLESSINGS FOR TAUPŌ DISTRICT ARTS

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, The Honourable Chris Finlayson, couldn't have picked a better time to visit the Taupō district. The Minister was in Taupō last Friday as part of a National Party 'Cabinet Club' lunch for local business people, and also met with local arts groups to hear about projects and initiatives happening in the district.

Councillor Nicola Williams, Chair of the Lake Taupō Arts Festival Trust - the group responsible for the biennial Erupt Festival - invited the Minister to speak to the arts groups about the Government's future plans for the arts in New Zealand. "The visit gave key

people involved in arts, culture and heritage activities an opportunity to have the Minister's ear," says Cr Williams, "and it was heartening to hear the present Government spends more on arts than the previous one."

The Minister was lucky enough to have his own private viewing of the Matariki Exhibit prior to its opening at the Taupō Museum and Art Gallery. "The visit was also a good opportunity to raise the profiles of local artists, and I think the Minister was impressed with the talent that exists here."

The opening night of the Matariki Exhibit was a huge success according to curator Eleazar Bramley, with about 300 people cramming into the Museum. "Opening night was fabulous. It was great to see the work of so many Tuwharetoa artists together in one room, and to have it blessed by the Kaumatua made it very special as well." She says the event attracted a diverse group of people. "The display was a great collision of art and culture, and I think it will appeal to lot of different people. The support of the Ōruanui Marae and Trustees has been amazing, and what an honour to have had the Minister view the works as well." The Matariki exhibition will be on at the Museum until 12 July.

Later this month artist Val Raymond will be gifting 40 pieces of her own art to Tuwharetoa. These pieces, along with many others from her extensive collection, will be on display in the Tuwharetoa Gallery at the Museum from 12 June to 20 July.



Eleazar with The Honourable Chris Finlayson
Photo courtesy Taupo Times

By the time you read this, the Annual Plan deliberations will be finishing, and hopefully too this miserable weather. I have to admit that I agree with one J Waters, whose letter to the editor last week stated that only a meagre 16 submissions on the Cycling Centre of Excellence (CCE) for this year's Annual Plan were actually from within the Taupō district. I tend to wonder whether all of those 16 submitters were even ratepayers? It is disappointing to see such a small handful of people taking an interest in what could be a very positive thing for the Waikato/BOP area and for Taupō. However, regardless of the outcome of the CCE bid, we know that Taupō's position in the cycling industry is looking brighter every year, and we don't need a title to prove it.



disappointing to read comments in another newspaper from a rather pessimistic businessman last week who made blanket statements about the state of the local economy. I wonder why the reporter chose to listen to the comments of one 'unnamed' source, and ignore those businesses that are still thriving? Perhaps most disappointing of was the criticism of the latest domestic tourism campaign 'Grabit' before it even got off

"I believe in the power of positive thinking"

Taupō is already famous worldwide as a cycling Mecca, hosting many world class road cycling and mountain bike events, and it looks like Freestyle BMX might be the next cycling code in Taupō's sights.

What a heart warming spectacle it was two weekends ago to see a young man flying down a 20 metre high ramp on a wee bike (clearly too small for his massive 6 ft frame), before soaring through the air and completing the world's first triple back flip. Read my lips people, three lots of 360's in a row; a completely insane stunt even for the warrior Jed Mildon. Freestyle BMX is an international phenomenon, and Jed has just helped put Taupō on the world stage. Already the young freestyler is making noises about holding the World Freestyle BMX Champs here. I want to wish Jed all the best with his project, and will endeavour to help in any way I can.

On another note, it was

the ground. It is during these tough economic times that outside-the-box thinking and innovative ideas are needed more than ever. We cannot afford to just sit back and wait for things to get better. I would like to publically applaud the vision and hard work of Destination Great Lake Taupō, and I hope the Grabit campaign is a great success and a boost for local retailers, restaurants and tourism providers over the winter.

I believe in the power of positive thinking, and similarly I believe negative thinking can bring about negative results and bring us all down. So I'd like to end on a positive note. It was promising to hear just how busy the Taupō CBD was over the long weekend...which I guess was the positive side of the miserable weather!

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Coffee with the bosses

Council's Senior Leadership Group, including CEO Rob Williams, will be the guests at this month's coffee morning at Sierra Cafe. Mayor Rick Cooper will be absent from the morning, but the Council's managers will be happy to talk to anyone about matters relating to their various departments.

Be at Sierra Cafe on Tongariro Street on Wednesday 15 June from 7.30am for a coffee and a chat. As always, coffees will be only \$2.

TIME TO HONOUR YOUR COMMUNITY'S HEROES

Nominations are now open for the TrustPower Taupō District Community Awards.

The Community Awards acknowledge voluntary groups across five categories, and there's over \$5,000 up for grabs. This year a new category has been introduced, which is exclusive to Taupō District - the Classic Hits Volunteer of the Year Award seeks to recognise the outstanding achievements of an individual.

Volunteers dedicate thousands of hours toward many programmes, projects, teams and causes in the community. Now it's the community's chance to say 'thanks' to these volunteers for their hard work by nominating them. Nomination forms are available online at www.taupo.govt.nz, and need to be in by 22 July 2011.

HOLLYWOOD COMES TO WHAKAMARU

Hollywood is coming to Whakamaru this Saturday night for the Whakamaru School PTA's annual fundraising ball. Come dressed as your favourite movie star or in your most lavish outfit, and rock the night away to local band Jam Dr. Head along to Whakamaru Settlers Hall, Tihoi Road, Mangakino from 7.30pm till late.

Tickets are only \$25, and include canapés. A cash bar is available, and a courtesy bus will be available for the Mangakino area. For tickets contact Julie on 021 1909829 or Donna on 027 4828110. Tickets can be picked up on the night.



IMPORTANT DATES

- 13 June** Citizenship Ceremony, 10am Council Chambers
- 14 June** Turangi-Tongariro Community Board Meeting, 1pm Turangi Service Centre
- 15 June** Coffee with CEO Rob Williams and senior managers, 7.30am Sierra Cafe

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07 376 0899 OR VISIT WWW.TAUPŌ.GOV.T.NZ

Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz



Mayor Rick Cooper

Dep Mayor Mike Downard

Cr Keith Crate

Cr Rob Henderson

Cr Barry Hickling

Cr Chris Johnston

Cr Gary Keepa

Cr Anna Kirk

Cr Rex Mincher

Cr Kirsty Trueman

Cr Nicola Williams