

# Connect

TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NOV 2008 - JAN 2009

Runner-up in North & South's  
2008 Top Small Town awards!

Your rates

It's not too late to apply for a rates rebate.  
To check if you're eligible for a discount of up to \$530, go to [www.ratesrebates.govt.nz](http://www.ratesrebates.govt.nz).  
To apply, bring your rates invoice and evidence of your earnings for the tax year ending 31 March 2008 into Taupo District Council before 30 June 2009.

## hi folks,

We're into the last month of spring and the sunshine is finally starting to create some heat. One of the really noticeable features of living in the Taupo District is the distinct difference the seasons bring to our environment – there's always something new for our visitors to see in our scenery.



The bronze medal which Taupo District Council won earlier this year at the national Local Government Communications Forum for the way we engage with our community has really paid dividends over the last few months. We have been finalising our draft ten-year plan and I can only say what a great experience this process has been. I personally have had the opportunity to meet with many individuals and groups within our community, and our staff have been out and about like never before canvassing the public for their ideas and opinions.

There is some very exciting stuff included in the plan but we've also tried to ensure there is some reality when it comes to being able to pay for things. Of course, a ten-year vision is not set in stone, but the plan goes a long way to providing the District's direction for the next decade. I encourage everyone to have a look at the document or at least at the summary version when it becomes available on 19 December.

When it is released for public comment, it will be one of the first – if not the first – in New Zealand to be released. The final version needs to be approved in June 2009 but with extra time up our sleeves for public scrutiny we're in a great position to reinforce our desire to be open-minded, communicative, transparent and accessible, especially when it comes to the big decisions.

Anyway, I was given a target of 400 words for my opportunity to chat and I'm sure I've exceeded that but, what the heck, Taupo is a great place so why not say as much as we can?!

Rob Williams  
Chief Executive, Taupo District Council

inside... Council says "Keep left: Lives are on the line", Taupo's most (and least!) popular dog names, Protecting Lake Taupo, Turangi's new pool causes a splash, solar heating just got cheaper, take a trip down Memory Lane, art competition winner, events calendar, A-Z of Council services PLUS win prizes!

## our neighbourhood, our future

Earlier this year, over 500 residents and ratepayers contributed to shaping Taupo District's future by completing the *Towards 2019* survey. Feedback from the survey was taken into account during the development of the draft ten-year plan, *Towards 2019*. Here's a taste of what your community said:

- 61% rated their neighbourhood at least an 8 out of 10
- Most thought their neighbourhoods were quiet, peaceful, tidy and safe
- Areas which need to improve are crime prevention, public transport, footpaths, tidiness of parks and playgrounds, and opportunities for youth
- Respondents want Taupo District to be known in 2019 as a clean, safe, friendly, beautiful place where people can live or holiday and be proud

### Good things take time... the timeline for the final stages of *Towards 2019* is below:

<b>Jan/Feb 2009</b> Make your submission on the draft ten-year plan. If you would like a copy of the draft plan, phone 07 376 0681 or visit <a href="http://www.taupo.govt.nz">www.taupo.govt.nz</a> .	<b>23 – 27 March 2009</b> Hearings: you can present your submission to Councillors.	<b>20 – 24 April 2009</b> Deliberations: Councillors discuss the submissions and decide on changes to the plan.	<b>23 June 2009</b> <i>Towards 2019</i> officially adopted by Council.
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Mayor Rick Cooper (centre) and *Towards 2019* ambassador Jess Steadman (left) get feedback from members of the community



**KEEP LEFT**  
Lives are on the line

The potentially fatal consequence of crossing the centre line was the focus of a regional road safety campaign run during October. Taupo District Council joined forces with South Waikato District Council for "Keep left, lives are on the line".

"It's a statistical fact that 51% of road crashes occur when drivers cross the centre line," says Mayor Rick Cooper. "It's just too risky, there are lives on the line."

The main factors causing drivers to cross the centre line are believed to be inattention, fatigue, not driving to the conditions and speed. It's hoped the campaign has made drivers more aware of the issues and the potential consequences.

## a DOG'S life

Does Max or Jess patrol your property or sleep at the foot of your bed? If so, your pooch has one of Taupo District's most popular dog names. There are 5628 dogs registered as canine residents in our district, with Max and Jess topping the list as being the most popular names. Some of the more unusual names include Frog, Darling, Bacon, Yap Yap and Fart.

To register your dog, visit a TDC office in Taupo, Turangi or Mangakino.



## the pOwer to choose

NO MORE CONSENT FEES FOR RETROFIT SOLAR PANELS

In a move to make Taupo District more eco-friendly, Council have waived consent fees for people installing solar water heating panels in existing dwellings.

A solar water heating system can heat up to 75 percent of your hot water every year and in summer it may be 100 percent. As water heating usually makes up 40% of your household energy bill, a solar water heating system will provide substantial savings. An average household could save between \$350 and \$450 a year.\*

You will also be helping to reduce New Zealand's dependence on non-renewable energy resources and it's estimated that every residential solar water heating system installed can save up to two tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year\*.

Because of the significant benefits, Taupo District Council has decided to support owners who retrofit their homes with a solar water heating system by waiving the consent fees.

Mayor Rick Cooper says this is a great opportunity for the district to become more energy conscious. "Around 10 retrofitting applications are received every year. Now that the \$565 consent fee has been waived, I hope to see lots more applications."

Anyone wanting to install a solar water heating system, whether to a new or existing building, may also be eligible for a government grant of \$1000.

For more information, visit <http://solar.energywise.govt.nz>.

\*<http://solar.energywise.govt.nz/consumers/benefits>



ALSO!

Residents in the Taupo urban area who own a pre-1978 house and are eligible to hold a community services card may be able to get their homes insulated free of charge.

Call Energy Options on 0800 151565 to find out you are eligible.



## Safeguarding Lake Taupo

Lake Taupo Protection Trust has purchased two farms in the western part of the Lake Taupo catchment as a step towards protecting lake water quality for future generations.

The purchase of farms in the catchment area is part of the Trust's strategy for reducing nitrogen discharges into the lake as it is calculated that over 90% of manageable nitrogen flow comes from animal waste and, in particular, animal urine.

The Trust is working on an 'eco-tender' process which will provide another means for interested parties to submit applications outlining how they can reduce nitrogen permanently.

Landowners within the catchment who have been or are substantially through the nitrogen benchmarking process and are considering selling should contact Graeme Fleming on 0800 888 380 or 021 846 996.



## splish, splash, dash to TURANGI

The region's newest facility is causing a splash at the southern end of the lake. The Genesis Energy Turangi Aquatic Centre opened in September after an extensive upgrade.

The \$4.5 million project included heating the existing 25 metre pool and toddlers' pool, a new learners' pool and 1.8 metre deep activity pool, new changing rooms, more storage and an upgraded entrance area.

A carved pou, which has been within Turangi township for a number of years, stands in the foyer. The pou, "Waiora", was restored to its former glory by local resident Guy Smallman and his family and will act as a kaitiaki (guardian) for all who enter the aquatic centre.

Chairman of the Turangi/Tongariro Community Board Councillor Don Ormsby says it's fantastic to see the aquatic centre come to fruition after four years of planning. "It's worth the wait," he says. "Look at the results now!"



Having fun at the opening day of the Genesis Energy Turangi Aquatic Centre

**POOL OPENING HOURS** Monday - Friday: 6.30am - 9.00am; 12.00pm - 8.00pm  
Saturday - Sunday: 10.00am - 7.00pm  
(Subject to change)

**ENTRY FEES** Adults \$3 Children \$2 (Concession cards available)

## MEMORY LANE

"I remember camping at Tauranga-Taupo River as a teenager in the 1950s. We went to dances in the meeting house at Waitetoko hosted by local Maori and we would fetch milk in a billy each day from the dairy farm nearby."

Helen Skelton, Auckland

We'd love to hear your memories of our great district. Email [connect@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:connect@taupo.govt.nz).

Taupo Museum wants to scan last-century photos from around the district to boost its collection. From significant buildings, to work and play - all photos will be considered. Phone 376 0415.

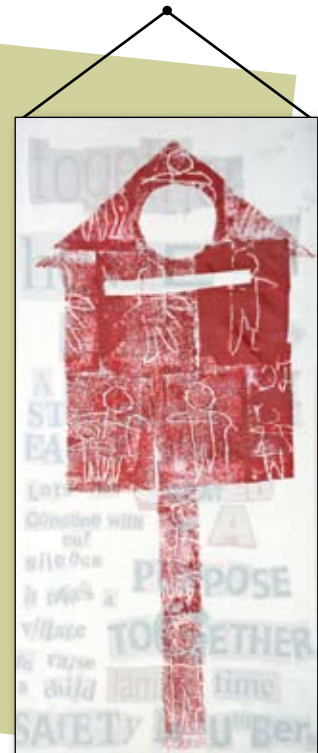
## STATE OF ART

Local artist, Fay Vaughan, created an original and contemporary silk-screen artwork to win the art competition at the Council and Community Expo in August.

The theme for the expo and the art competition was 'Our Neighbourhood, Our Future'. Miss Vaughan was one of 30 artists to enter and received a \$500 cash prize, kindly sponsored by Mighty River Power, for her winning piece.

The three-day expo was run by Council in conjunction with local community groups to gather the community's ideas, dreams and aspirations for the area. These ideas are now being incorporated into the district's ten-year plan, *Towards 2019*, which will also feature the winning artwork.

The first draft of *Towards 2019* will be made available for public consultation from 19 December with the final version adopted in June.



Fay Vaughan's winning silk-screen entry



Mayor Rick Cooper

Dep. Mayor Christine McElwee

Cr Kathryn Uvhagen

Cr Don Ormsby

Cr Doreen Blyth

Cr Bernhard Chrustowski

Cr Micheal Downard

Cr Ailsa Gathergood

Cr Gary Keepa

Cr Barry Hickling

Cr Andrew Welch

## WORKING FOR YOU

Having your say is now even easier. Email your elected members at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)

# the events capital



## november

- 5 Senior Citizens Expo, Great Lake Centre
- 6-7 **Raise the Roof, Great Lake Centre**
- 29 **Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge**  
[www.cyclechallenge.com](http://www.cyclechallenge.com)

## december

- 13 Taupo Half Ironman  
[www.halfironmantaupo.co.nz](http://www.halfironmantaupo.co.nz)
- 14 **Christmas in the Park, Riverside Park**
- 31 **NYE08, Riverside Park**  
[www.nyeconcerttaupo.com](http://www.nyeconcerttaupo.com)

## january

- 4 **Summer Series concerts, Riverside Park**  
[www.nyeconcerttaupo.com](http://www.nyeconcerttaupo.com)
- 23-25 AIGP, Taupo Motorsport Park  
[www.AIGPtaupo.com](http://www.AIGPtaupo.com)
- 30-31 NZ National Tag Football Champs, Owen Delany Park  
[www.nzkiwitag.com](http://www.nzkiwitag.com)
- 31-1 Feb Taupo Medieval Festival, Spa Park  
[www.taupojoust.com](http://www.taupojoust.com)



**WIN!** We'd love to get your feedback on this newsletter. Send us your comments or perhaps an idea about what we could include in future issues.

Write to Connect, Taupo District Council, Private Bag 2005, Taupo or email [connect@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:connect@taupo.govt.nz).

All entries will go into the draw to win one of five \$20 book vouchers. Entries close 30 November 2008.

## it'll be a cracker christmas!

This year's **Christmas in the Park** features the popular Great Lake Big Band, massed choirs and the very best of Taupo's local entertainers. Bring your family and friends, relax with a picnic dinner, sing your favourite carols and enjoy the fantastic, festive entertainment.



6-8pm, 14 December, Riverside Park

## the sweet sounds of summer

**NYE08** and Taupo's popular **Summer Series** are back! Celebrate New Year's Eve with great music and fantastic fireworks. The entertainment is carefully selected to appeal to the whole family so bring a blanket and a picnic and enjoy a great evening of free entertainment.

The **Summer Series** will be held throughout January and February – that's two months of free concerts every Sunday from 5-7pm. There's something for everyone... jazz, opera, blues, Irish, contemporary, rock and more.

The complete schedule will be released soon so stay tuned!

**NYE08** 8pm, 31 December, Riverside Park

**Summer Series** 5-7pm, every Sunday in Jan/Feb, Riverside Park  
[www.nyeconcerttaupo.com](http://www.nyeconcerttaupo.com)



## bringing the house down

**Raise the Roof** is an exciting performance for youth aged 5-20 years. It consists of many different genres such as dancing, singing, kapa haka, Pacific Island dancing, graffiti art, fashion and much more. Pounding rhythms, stunning choreography, vibrant dancers, empowering singers and talented artists all come together to show off Taupo's up-and-coming performers. Tickets available from Cafe for Youth Health and Pagani.

6-7 November, Great Lake Centre

## pedal power

The **Wattyl Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge** is New Zealand's premier cycling event. More than 10,000 riders pedal their way, either in teams or as individuals, around a 160km circumnavigation of Lake Taupo. The event is part of the prestigious UCI Golden Bike Series, making it one of the world's top eight cycling events. Taupo Moana Rotary organise the event and donate the proceeds to our community.

29 November, [www.cyclechallenge.com](http://www.cyclechallenge.com)

A to Z

• Council deals with everything from abandoned cars to water supply. Check out the list below!

• Abandoned cars, AC Baths, airport, animal control, annual plans, arts and culture, boat storage, building consents, building control, buskers and street activities, bus service, cemeteries, civic events, community arts, community development, community halls, community liaison, cycling tracks, Destination Lake Taupo, dog control, economic development, elections, erosion control, emergency management, environmental health, footpaths, funding and grants, gambling control, graffiti, Great Lake Centre, hazardous substances information, health licensing, heritage, housing for the elderly, Iwi liaison, land information memorandum (LIM), landfill, landscaping and streetscaping, libraries, liquor licensing, mobile shops and trading in public places, motor camps, museum, noise control, outdoor recreation facilities, Owen Delany Park, parks and reserves, parking, plant and pest control, policy development, property enquiry system, public swimming pools, public toilets, rates, refuse and recycling, resource consents, roading, rural fire, safer communities, sports grounds, stormwater, strategic planning, swimming pool fencing, Taupo Events Centre, Taupo District Plan, Taupo Museum, Taupo Venues, tree control, urban search and rescue, visitor centres, webcam, wastewater, water conservation, water supply.

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Taupo District Council will have shortened office hours between 24 December and 5 January. For full details phone 07 376 0899 or visit [www.taupo.govt.nz](http://www.taupo.govt.nz)

Taupo District Council 