

Connect

TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NOV 2009 - JAN 2010

Free summer concerts!
(See back page for details)

Your rates U
If you own more than one property, please ensure each account is paid separately with the corresponding valuation number and address included with each payment.

hi folks,



As we move through late spring in our beautiful district and the sunshine exudes more heat, one can feel the anticipation of another summer of exciting events and activities to come. There are many who say Taupo district is "the events capital of New Zealand" and, once you see

what we have in store this year, it's difficult to argue with that sentiment.

Although we thrive on our events and relish the opportunity to demonstrate to the country, and even the world, that we are capable of punching well above our size and stature, it is the bread and butter of normal business which I feel most proud of at this point in time.

Our staff have continued to make a concerted effort to improve the way we serve our community. This includes striving to deliver our services more efficiently and effectively ensuring we are better able to respond to your needs appropriately and in a timely manner. Hopefully, you will have noticed some of our changes materialise as improvements to your interactions with Council. I'd be very interested to hear from anyone who has a view upon our service delivery – both positive and negative. The more feedback the better as it all helps to improve the way we work.

Before I finish, I'd like to express my sincerest thanks to everyone who has taken the time to help us over the last twelve months – either by providing information or writing submissions to Council – so that we are able to better understand the true nature of our community aspirations and ideas. To quote from the local government legislation that we operate under, it is only with a broad spectrum of input and information from everyone that we are best able "to make decisions for and on behalf of our communities".

Rob Williams
Chief Executive, Taupo District Council
rwilliams@taupo.govt.nz

inside... East Taupo Arterial update, Taupo's stunning rose garden, swimming with your baby, trout fishing for beginners, the great web update, take a trip down Memory Lane, a hazardous eco tip, events calendar, A-Z of Council services PLUS loads of free summer concerts!

planning for the future

The proposal to revitalise Taupo's CBD and develop new industrial zones has generated enormous interest and feedback in the community. The aim of Council's **Taupo Urban Commercial and Industrial Structure Plan** is to create a vibrant and appealing heart for the CBD and identify options for future industrial development – both of which will be particularly important once the East Taupo Arterial opens.

Ideas for the town centre include creating a civic heart, a waterfront piazza, enhancing laneways and service lanes in retail areas, and making parking and roading in the CBD more people friendly. Suggestions for industrial development centre around **re-zoning areas around the East Taupo Arterial**.

With the aim of **forming a vibrant heart for the CBD**, Council is focused on finding solutions which enhance green spaces, create bigger and better indoor and outdoor spaces for events, and ensure retail and dining areas are great places to be and are brimming with people.

To **cater for the anticipated growth in industry** which the ETA is expected to bring, Council has taken a closer look at land previously identified as having potential for future growth. Some of these areas have constraints (such as faultlines, ecological significance, or thermal 'hot' ground) while the remaining land is more suitable for development.

We anticipate public consultation on the draft strategy will occur over December and January so stay tuned for more information. You can also check out the 'Projects' section of our website, www.taupo.govt.nz.



ETA UPDATE

The Taupo East Taupo Arterial (ETA) is really starting to materialise. Earthworks have transformed farmland into a visible road which is particularly noticeable when viewed from the air. Motorists travelling along State Highway One near Taupo Airport may have also noticed one of the ETA's three roundabouts taking shape. Construction of the overbridges at Broadlands Road and Centennial Drive are well underway and work on the Wairakei intersection roundabout has commenced with temporary traffic management in place. In some areas, base material is now being laid to provide a solid, level foundation ready for sealing before the end of the year.

★ INTERESTING ETA FACTS! ★

- ★ 16km of new highway
- ★ 15,000 truck and trailer loads of fill
- ★ 104-metre bridge over Waikato River
- ★ 400-tonne crane (the largest in NZ) will lift the bridge base into position

coming up roses

Taupo Rose Garden was established in 1979 with 800 bushes budded and reared by the Taupo Rose Society. There are 79 rose varieties in the garden, ranging from the classic red 'Rosenthal' through to the beautiful bridal white 'Iceberg' and many stunning pinks, apricots, yellows and oranges.

But, such beauty doesn't come easy! Council gardeners follow a meticulous schedule of pruning, feeding and spraying to help the roses cope with the demands of flowering and to ward off mildew, bugs and blackspot.

The roses look best from mid-October to early April. Take your camera and a picnic and check them out!



FACETWITTING!

WHY IS COUNCIL SOCIAL NETWORKING?

Communicating with our community is really important to us and there are many different ways we try to stay in touch: newsletters (such as this one!), radio, newspapers, media releases, posters, meetings, workshops, email, the internet and good old fashioned snail mail!

Recently, though, the popularity of **social media** has taken off and we realise this is another communication avenue which is not only quick and effective but could also help us reach a different section of people.

So, as well as posting information on our website (www.taupo.govt.nz), we are now also using Twitter and Facebook to help keep you up-to-date. It's also a good way for you to communicate with us!

Click on the Twitter link on www.taupo.govt.nz to follow us, or click on the Facebook link to see what Mayor Rick has been up to lately.

You can also follow Destination Lake Taupo by clicking the Twitter and Facebook links on www.laketaupo.nz, com, or follow AC Baths and the Great Lake Centre by clicking the links on www.taupovenues.co.nz.

Friend for life

Are you considering adding a "fur child" to your family? The Council's animal welfare centre rehomes suitable dogs and puppies who have been abandoned or surrendered. There are always a range of pooches to choose from and you can now check them out online on www.taupo.govt.nz. The adopt-a-dog page includes photos and some details about each dog along with information on the adoption process. Or, if you've lost your dog, go to the website to view photos of currently impounded dogs. Visit www.taupo.govt.nz and enter 'pound' in the search box.

Virtual help

Earlier this year, the ability to make a request for service was made available on Council's website – and it has proved to be a big hit. Almost 150 hits, in fact! The majority of online queries to date, has been about rates; the rest are spread over a number of different topics including refuse, sportsgrounds, the district plan and building consents.

If you want Council's help, go to www.taupo.govt.nz and look for the online services menu on the homepage.

WATER BABIES

'Parent and child' swim classes at AC Baths are designed to help littlies gain confidence in the water with the help of songs, games, activities and plenty of encouragement.

Parents work one-on-one with their child under the guidance of a trained instructor in a bright, happy environment.

There are three levels available: Hatchlings (6-12 months), Small Fry (1-2 years), and Aqua Totz (2-3 years).

The new term began last month, however babies can begin lessons at any time mid-term.

AC Baths
07 376 0350

www.taupovenues.co.nz



Next step for this Taupo baby could be Olympic synchronised swimming!

DID YOU KNOW?

The fishing pond at the Tongariro National Trout Centre is the perfect spot for kids to experience trout fishing.

All equipment is provided and children will be assisted in catching a trout which will then be weighed, measured and presented to them with a certificate to take home. You can even get your fish filleted and smoked before you leave.

Fly-casting tuition is also available for both children and adults. The Trout Centre is 4km south of Turangi on State Highway One. Bookings are required.

www.troutcentre.org.nz



MEMORY LANE

Rewa White moved to Taupo in 1940 to help her sister and brother-in-law run Casson's General Store (previously known as Quarries Store) in Tongariro Street. At that time, Taupo had a population of about 500. While working in the store, Rewa met her husband-to-be, George Marlow.

"There was no power in Taupo back in 1940 - our electricity was supplied from diesel generators. If you walked outside at night, you could hear the putt-putt of the generators working. There were also no washing machines or refrigerators. There was a big generator that provided power to the store to run lamps and fridges. When George and I married in 1949, we were given a kerosene fridge, as there was still no electricity in Taupo."

Rewa Marlow

Share your memories of our great district by emailing connect@taupo.govt.nz.

Waste not, want not

What do you do with unwanted thinners, sprays, detergents or pool chemicals?

The Broadland Road Resource Recovery Park will accept household quantities of hazardous chemicals at no charge and dispose of them safely.

For opening hours of all transfer stations around the district, visit www.taupo.govt.nz or phone 07 376 0899.

Thanks to everyone who helped make September's free e-waste disposal day a big success. Two shipping containers were filled with old electronic equipment which is known to contain toxic heavy metals and CFC foams. The day was so popular it may become an annual event.

ECO TIP



WORKING FOR YOU

Having your say is now even easier. Email your elected members at councillors@taupo.govt.nz

the events capital

november

- 1-17 Illumination, Taupo Museum
www.taupovenues.co.nz
- 3 Secret Men's Business Sssh!!!
6pm, Great Lake Centre
- 14 Party in the Park, 10.30am
Tongariro North Domain
- 18 Coffee with Rick and Rob
7.30-9am, Sierra Café, Taupo
- 21 Beauty for Ashes, Taupo Museum
- 28 Wattyl Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge

december

- 4 Our Neighbourhood event
5-7pm, Mere Rd Reserve
- 5 35th Taupo Christmas Parade & Carnival
- 12 Taupo Half Ironman
- 16 Coffee with Rick and Rob
7.30-9am, Sierra Café, Taupo
- 19 Fire and Fibre II, Taupo Museum
- 31 NYE09, Riverside Park

january

Every Sunday! Summer Series, Riverside Park
www.summerserietaupo.co.nz

- 15 Our Neighbourhood event
5-7pm, Parkdale Reserve
- 16 Ceramic and fibre exhibition
Taupo Museum, www.taupovenues.co.nz
- 16-17 Epic Swim Festival
- 23-24 Taupo Medieval Festival
- 29 Kiwiburn, Whakamaru Domain (until 1 Feb)
- 31 NZ Offshore Powerboat Racing

For more events, visit www.eventscapital.co.nz

CHRISTMAS is coming

The annual **Taupo Christmas Parade** gets rolling at 1pm on Saturday 5 December. The parade starts on Lake Terrace, travels towards the CBD, turns right onto Tongariro Street and finishes at the Tongariro North Domain where the **Taupo Christmas Carnival** is held. The carnival will feature entertainment from Mahon's Amusements. Entries for the parade and carnival are available from the Taupo Visitor Centre and cost \$10 for community floats, \$20 for commercial floats, \$45 for community stalls and \$55 for commercial stalls.

sounds of summer

You asked for it! **NYE09** and Taupo's **Summer Series** are back for another great season of alfresco entertainment in Riverside Park. Celebrate New Year's Eve with your family in a fun, alcohol-free environment. There will be two great bands, the Lightning Rider and, as always, some spectacular fireworks. Then, every Sunday in January, free **Summer Series** concerts will be held in Tongariro North Domain... and, as luck would have it, there are FIVE Sundays that month! The first four Sunday concerts will be from 6pm to 8pm (you may bring alcohol to these), then on 31 January, there will be a four-hour "**Anniversary Gig**" blues concert starting at 8pm.

Visit www.summerserietaupo.co.nz for details.

PLUS!
ROADSIDE
ATTRACTIONS
12.30-1.30pm weekdays
21 Dec - 15 Jan
Great Lake Centre
courtyard

making a SPLASH

New Zealand's inaugural **Epic Swim Festival** is being held in Lake Taupo for the first time. This annual event will consist of recreational open water swims of varying distances, the New Zealand 5km and 10km Open Water Championships and also the New Zealand Masters 2.5km Open Water Championships.

www.epicswim.co.nz

★ it's party time!

Meet your neighbours at a fun get-together in your local reserve. Some of these events were held in various suburbs around Taupo earlier this year and everyone had a great time! Come along for **live music, food and fun activities**. The events are on Friday evenings from 5-7pm. See you there!

- 4 December Mere Road Reserve
- 15 January Parkdale Reserve
- 12 February Lakewood Reserve
- 26 February Wharewaka Reserve

To view district maps
for cycling and walking,
visit www.taupo.govt.nz

• 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.

A to Z