

Connect

TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MAY - JULY 2009

Winner of TV2's
TOP TOWN!

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.

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,



As we make the most of the lingering autumn warmth in our fabulous district, I can assure you that the heat is still well and truly on in our Council Chamber.

Our ten-year planning exercise (which is officially called the 'Long Term Council Community Plan') is drawing to a conclusion. Our

team of elected members are considering the final pieces of the jigsaw that will determine and lead the future of Taupo District. We can all feel confident that everyone has had a real opportunity to have a say.

There has been much talk recently about the potential for changed leadership and governance arrangements in the Auckland region and I have no doubt that the rest of New Zealand will subsequently debate issues around that topic. One of the things I am sure of though is that local decisions made by local communities will always underpin the principles of local government. I believe it is fundamental to all that live in New Zealand's farming communities, villages, towns and cities that we retain an appropriate ability for people to have their say on both local and national issues.

Please feel free at any time to contact either myself or any of the team here at Taupo District Council to ask questions or provide ideas. Just because our ten-year plan is due to be finalised does not restrict your ability to strive for improvement in your local council. I feel that we should always be willing to hear queries, ideas and suggestions about the local community we serve and, regardless of the outcome, we should also be very open and transparent about our responses.

Our ten-year plan is of critical importance but it is the people that make up our district community who will ultimately be the judges of its delivery and success.

Rob Williams
Chief Executive, Taupo District Council

inside...

it's official: Taupo is NZ's 'Top Town', protecting Lake Taupo, Youth Week '09, High School Formula One Challenge, *Towards 2019* update and *Top 20 Report 2009*, take a trip down Memory Lane, Matahi's gift to Taupo, events calendar, A-Z of Council services **PLUS** check out our new website!

east taupo arterial is on its way

Work is well underway on the **East Taupo Arterial** with vegetation clearing, fencing and culvert installation now complete. Earthworks are about to begin and you can expect structures to appear later this year including the first signs of the new Waikato River bridge. Part of the Aratiatia Reserve walkway will be temporarily relocated so that it can remain open for walkers during the ETA's construction phase.

You may have noticed an increase in Fulton Hogan vehicles about the town already. The company's ETA staff are fully integrating themselves into the Taupo community: they're joining clubs, shopping locally, enjoying Taupo's famous hospitality, renting and purchasing homes, participating in local events and utilising Taupo venues such as the library and AC Baths.

Local contractors and suppliers are also being kept busy with ETA work which also brings an added benefit to the Taupo economy.

For more information, phone the ETA Project Office on 376 2100.



NZ'S TOP TOWN

OFFICIAL

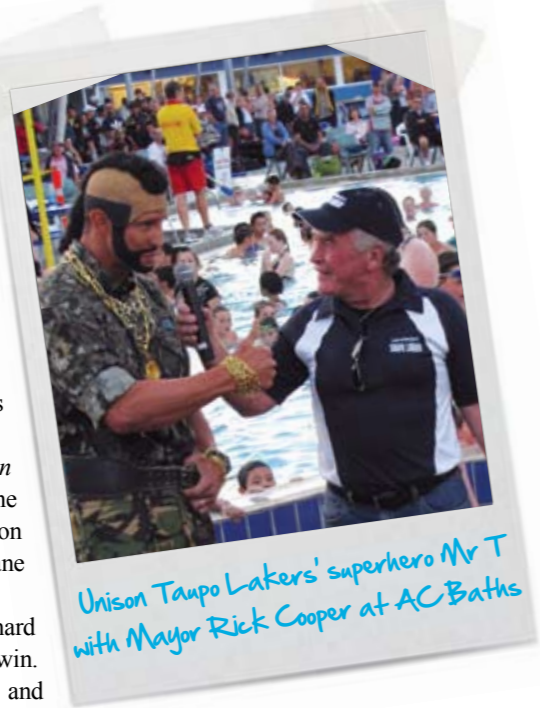
Over 1200 people were at AC Baths for a community celebration in early April to watch the **Unison Taupo Lakers** become official winners of TV2's *Top Town*.

Council waived entry fees for the celebration and families flooded in to enjoy an evening of games, activities, giveaways and lots of fun in the water.

A 'Top School' competition was held prompting some great inter-school rivalry. The winners were Taupo-nui-a-Tia College and Taupo Intermediate. Lakers' superhero Mr T judged a 'Mr T Look-alike' competition with very impressive costumes making his decision difficult.

The party ended with the final *Top Town* episode aired on a giant poolside screen. The Lakers showed they had the guts, determination and teamwork required to beat the Whakatane Yellowfins and take the *Top Town* title.

Lakers' coach Councillor Mich'eal Downard says the team really pulled together for the win. "They've done this community proud... and they've proven Taupo is New Zealand's top town."



Unison Taupo Lakers' superhero Mr T with Mayor Rick Cooper at AC Baths

From farm to forest
 Lake Taupo Protection Trust, the organisation tasked with ensuring the ongoing health and water quality of Lake Taupo, has announced an agreement to convert over 930ha of farmland into forestry, which will result in a decrease in nitrogen entering the lake.
 Owners of converted farms will receive a nitrogen reduction payment from the Trust. The arrangement is understood to be the first of its kind in New Zealand and will involve the land having a legal covenant placed on the title to ensure the nitrogen reduction is maintained.
 Mayor Rick Cooper says the Trust worked with landowners to look at options. "A solution has been found which works for both parties and will help us protect the district's most valuable asset – our stunning lake."



Towards 2019: the ten-year plan

In January and February, over 300 submissions were received on the district's draft ten-year plan, *Towards 2019*. Coupled with the fact that over 500 residents and ratepayers contributed ideas and feedback on the content of the draft plan through Council's 'roving consultation' sessions and surveys, Taupo District's people really are helping shape the future.

Changes to the draft plan based on the community's feedback were decided on by Councillors in late April and by 30 June the final plan will be officially adopted.

Mayor Rick Cooper would like to thank everyone for their help in creating a plan which is representative of what the community wants for the future of our district.

The Top 20 Report 2009

This report provides a snapshot of the district's progress toward the community outcomes. It contains 20 key indicators which track our progress and assist Council and community agencies with future planning.

Some of the areas where good progress has been made are in the volume of recycling, a reduction in the total number of recorded crimes, an increase in the number of people employed and the number of businesses, and an increase in average hourly earnings. Some of the areas where improvements are required are housing affordability, avoidable hospitalisations and reducing motor vehicle crashes.

You can get a copy of the *Top 20 Report 2009* from Taupo District Council or from www.taupo.govt.nz.

YOUTH WEEK '09 23 - 31 MAY

Youth Week aims to create a society which values young people by focusing on the amazing things they do. Check out what Taupo has in store this year:

- A 'Super School' competition run by Sport Waikato.
- Art and culture workshops run by Taupo Youth Arts Trust and Active Arts.
- Modelling, self defence and image workshops run by REAP.
- A Kiwi band supported by local youth bands, 'Let's Get Loud' performers evening and other fun events run by TDC's Taupo Venues.
- High School Formula One Challenge driving skills competition.
- A special event to open the festival run by a group of young people and Café Youth Health.

The official programme will be available in early May. Call Jenny Steadman on 376 0606 or email jsteadman@taupo.govt.nz.

"Formula One, here I come!"

Creating safer young motorists is the drive behind this year's **High School Formula One Challenge** driving skills competition being held as part of Taupo's Youth Week '09.

Taupo District Council has joined forces with the Formula Challenge Group, Taupo Motorsport Park, Taupo Driving School, Taupo-nui-a-Tia College and Tauhara College to organise the day. Students will compete (not race!) in a variety of skill-based and knowledge events aimed at improving their driving proficiency.

In the last five years, 20 percent of Taupo's road deaths were teenage drivers aged between 15 and 19. It is generally accepted that the high crash rate among young drivers is partly due to lack of driving knowledge, insight, risk awareness and experience. The High School Formula One Challenge aims to improve the quality and relevance of driver training available to this age group. The competition's top-scoring male and female drivers will win a hot-lap around the race circuit in a competition car.

The competition is on Tuesday 26 May, 10am-1pm, at Taupo Motorsport Park. To register, email jeremy.ball@taupocollege.ac.nz, dr@tauhara.school.nz or chutchison@taupo.govt.nz.



MEMORY LANE

"Our family moved from Hutt Valley to Richmond Heights in the 1970s. At that time it was mostly farmland and it wasn't unusual to see wild deer. Our family's favourite swimming spot was at Hatepe. The last part of the journey was incredibly steep and windy - now it's a wide, straight road with a passing lane!"

Kellie Knight, Taupo

We'd love to hear your memories of our great district. Email connect@taupo.govt.nz.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Maori rock carvings at Mine Bay on Lake Taupo are over ten metres high and only accessible by boat. The peaceful, spiritual and cultural beauty of these magnificent carvings towering over deep waters are beautiful in a setting sun.

In the late 1970s, master carver Matahi Whakataka-Brightwell visited his mother's land at Lake Taupo. While on a boat trip around the western bays, he saw the cliffs at Mine Bay and thought they'd be an ideal canvas for a carving.

Matahi decided to create his perception of Ngatoroirangi, a visionary Maori navigator who, after guiding the Te Arawa canoe to the Bay of Plenty, staked his claim to the Taupo area over 1000 years ago. In recognition of the multicultural nature of New Zealand, Matahi also carved two smaller figures of Celtic design which depict the south wind and a mermaid.

The Ngatoroirangi carving took four summers to complete and the carvers took no payment other than donations to cover the cost of the scaffolding. The carvings have become an icon for our region and are a wonderful gift from Brightwell to all who live and visit here.



The carvings are only accessible by boat... or kayak!



Mayor Rick Cooper

Dep. Mayor Christine McElwee

Cr Kathryn Uvhagen

Cr Don Ormsby

Cr Doreen Blyth

Cr Bernhard Chrustowski

Cr Mich'eal 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

the

events capital

may

- 2 My Neighbourhood, Pihanga Street Reserve
- 9-10 Suzuki Berm Buster
www.epicevents.co.nz
- 15 Families Day
- 23-31 Youth Week '09

june

- 10 Stage and Screen, Great Lake Centre
www.operatunity.co.nz
- 13 My Neighbourhood, Wairakei Village Main Reserve

july

- 11-12 Starlight Cinema Centre 14th Hobby Expo
- 25 My Neighbourhood, Mere Street Reserve

In your neighbourhood

"Oh, who are the people in your neighbourhood? In your neighbourhood? In your neighbourhood? Say, who are the people in your neighbourhood? The people that you meet each day..."

Do you remember this *Sesame Street* song? You'll soon have a chance to meet your neighbours at a **fun get-together in your local reserve**. From May to November, community events will be held around Taupo with the aim of encouraging community spirit and pride. A barbecue brunch will be provided and espresso coffee available, along with games and activities led by Sport Waikato, Taupo's mobile library, a bouncy castle and displays from local model clubs. The events are on Saturday mornings from 9am to midday. See you there!

- 2 May Pihanga Street Reserve
- 13 June Wairakei Village Main Reserve
- 25 July Mere Road Reserve
- 29 August Parkdale Reserve, Richmond Ave
- 3 October Tu Wiremu Reserve, Kaiuru Street
- 14 November Besley Reserve, Acacia Bay

Stay tuned for details of events in other reserves.

families day

As we all face increasingly tough economic times, it helps to remember that the support of those closest to us is often what gets us through. So what better time to celebrate families? **Families Day** is a great opportunity for people to remember the benefits of being part of family or whanau. It's also a chance to celebrate our strengths and successes, rather than focusing on the doom and gloom. To help you celebrate, AC Baths is offering a discount for families: \$10 per family (up to seven people) and \$5 for one hour BBQ hire. The pool inflatables will also be up from 5-8pm on Families Day and again on Sat 16 May.

15 May, AC Baths

stage and screen

Check out four great shows that made the leap from the stage to screen: Carousel, The Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof and Mary Poppins. Elements of both film and song will be included in this interactive show.

10 June, Great Lake Centre, www.operatunity.co.nz

get on your hobby horse

The **Starlight Cinema Centre 14th Hobby Expo** at the Taupo Events Centre showcases all types of hobbies, from model railways through to quilts and stamp collecting. You may find yourself a new interest!

11-12 July, Taupo Events Centre

A SITE TO BEHOLD

Taupo District Council has a smart new website. Information is now much easier to find thanks to the addition of a search engine and an improved layout, you can pay your rates online using your credit card, there is an image gallery with photos from around the district and we've kept the Taupo webcam - one of the most popular features on the old website. New residents can learn more about their new neighbourhood in the 'Living Here' section and you'll also find links to other Council websites. We'd love your feedback on the new site... check it out by visiting www.taupo.govt.nz.

Taupo Venues has a new site too. Find out all you need to know about our fantastic facilities including what's on at the Great Lake Centre, Taupo Events Centre, Owen Delany Park, AC Baths and Taupo Museum. Visit www.taupovenues.co.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