Liquor ban areas for safety

We are all keen to have fun these holidays, but it's important to remember to keep safe with smart alcohol practices. The festive season means a lot of visitors will be coming to our beautiful District and we need to keep everyone safe by abiding by the liquor ban.

Council and police will once again be watching liquor ban areas closely as the holiday season gets underway. New signage is going up around town to make sure visitors and the community are aware of the rules. Wherever the liquor ban is in place no alcohol can be consumed in public places.

From 27 December to 4 January, a permanent liquor ban in Taupō that normally runs from Thursday to Monday morning will increase to include all days of the week. This includes a large part of the town centre, stretching out to Kaiwaka Street in the east, north to Tamatea Street, all of Rupehu Street and to the Harbormaster’s office. The whole Lakefront between these points is included.

Also, the ban includes Nukuhau Street from the Nukuhau Street and Spa Road intersection through to and including the Control Gates Bridge and the Walkway Reserve.

In addition to the regular town centre liquor ban, during this period the ban also applies to several reserves. These are: the Lakefront between the Harbour Master’s office and the Council building on Lake Terrace, the Lakefront Reserves in Kinloch, Acacia Bay, Wharewaka, Two, Three and Five Mile Bays, Te Moenga Reserve and Nukuhau Boat Reserve and the public swimming beach area accessed off Rauhoto Street.

In Mangakino, the year-round liquor ban applies in the town centre and its public reserves. The liquor ban areas for Turangi are in the Turangi town centre and McLaren/Te Kupua Park. For a full list with specific descriptions of the areas included in the liquor ban, check the Council website at www.taupo.govt.nz

Rockin’ New Year’s Eve

Get ready for an explosive start to the New Year with Council’s Lakefront fireworks display!

This year we have two rounds of fireworks planned so all members of the community and our visitors can enjoy the show.

Celebrations will start at 9.30pm with music at the Lakefront and then at 10.00pm the Twilight Mini Bang will see about five minutes of fireworks. This is so children and families can see fireworks earlier than normal.

Then at midnight the main event will begin. Spectacular fireworks will go for about 10 minutes for the Big Bang.

You can watch the displays from vantage points around Taupō, the Lakefront or your homes. They will be launched from around the middle of the Lakefront near Taupō town centre. So come down and enjoy!

Be water wise this summer

Despite a bit of rain this month, it’s predicted to be a long hot summer and that means we need to be careful with our water usage. Water conservation is vital to make sure everyone in our District has an adequate supply of water throughout the dry season.

Water use historically picks up at this time of year, but there are limits on the volume of water that can be taken from Lake Taupō. It’s really important that we start conserving water now to avoid possible water restrictions later on. High water consumption puts a strain on the infrastructure we use to treat the water we take from the Lake and it is not the endless supply it appears to be.

As well as being careful with the amount of water we use, Council is asking the community to be mindful of the rules around fire hydrant use.

Fire hydrants are only for the use of firefighters, Council maintenance staff and approved Council contractors. It is illegal to use a fire hydrant to access water for personal or corporate use without a permit. Improper use of a fire hydrant can result in the water being contaminated and can also affect water pressure. Damage to a hydrant could mean it could be unavailable when it is really needed in an emergency. Anyone who believes they are witnessing unauthorised or improper use of a fire hydrant can report this to Council to help keep our water supply safe.

Permits can be obtained from Taupo District Council on 07 376 0899.

Restricted fire season

It is the time of year when fires can easily get out of hand, and that means it is a restricted fire season in our District. The restriction means a permit is required from Council for any open fire in a rural area.

The restricted season began on 1 October and will run through until April or May, with a date yet to be set, depending on the weather conditions.

It is vital that anyone who wants to have an open fire in a rural area applies for a permit at least 48 hours before the planned fire. This alerts Council where fires will be so they can be monitored, and keeps our community safe.

Please remember to take care with fire to protect our environment and our community. Forms to apply for a fire permit can be obtained from Council offices on Lake Terrace and in Turangi and Mangakino or by phoning 07 376 0899.

BUS SCHEDULES

Taupo Connector
Until Sun 6 Jan 2013 Saturday timetable will apply during this period (i.e. no early morning service to Taupo Central and no Acacia Bay or Waitahanui service).

Normal timetable resumes on Mon 7 Jan.

Wairakei shuttle: Has ended for the year. Service will recommence on Mon 1 Feb 2013.

For more detail on any of this information go to www.taupo.govt.nz

REFUSE AND RECYCLING

Rubbish collection days:

Fri 28 Dec: Collection as normal

Week beginning Mon 31 Dec: All collections resume as normal.

Landfills and refuse facilities will be open during normal operating hours with the following exception: Tues 1 Jan - Mangakino Transfer Station closed.

Don’t know your normal collection day or opening hours for landfill and transfer stations? Phone 0800 ASK TDC or visit www.taupo.govt.nz (click on Council Services and choose Refuse and Recycling)

HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

All Council offices will be open from 9.00am to 3.00pm today and on 31 December. All will be closed on 1-2 January, and reopen with normal hours on 3 January. The AC Baths, Mangakino Pool and Genesis Energy Aquatic Centre Turangi will be open on 1-2 January with varying hours. Taupo District Libraries reopen on 7 December. Go to www.taupo.govt.nz for a comprehensive list of opening hours.

What’s on

27 Dec
Kirkloch Padd, Kirkloch

28 Dec-2 Jan
Waterside Mania, Riverside Park

29-29 Dec
Taupo Thunder Dragway, Richo Taupo Motorsport Park

30 Dec
Taupo Rodeo, corner of Broadlands Road and Centennial Drive, Taupō

31 Dec
Interislander Summer Festival Taupō Racers, Taupō Racing Club

3 Jan
Omori/Kuratau Fun Run, Kuratau Community Hall

5 Jan
Reggae in the Vines, River Wines, Turangi

Until 8 Jan
Exhibition: From The River, Taupō Museum and Art Gallery

13 Jan
Our Neighbourhood - Waihauhau Community Lunch, Tutemotua Reserve

Until 15 Jan
Exhibition: Delari Brown – Te Raranga, Taupo Museum and Art Gallery

17-31 Jan
Portraits for Kids (of all ages), Taupo Museum and Art Gallery

18-20 Jan
Annual Fishing Competition, Moetaua

19-20 Jan
Antiques Fair, Great Lake Centre

For more information on all Taupo District events visit www.taupo.govt.nz or www.GreatLakeTaupo.com

For more detail on any of this information go to www.taupo.govt.nz

For more information call 07 376 0899 or go to www.taupo.govt.nz