

## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Mangakino has a beautiful new basketball court, opened in May.
- The new papa tākaro (play space) at Te Kapua Park in Tūrangi won three prestigious national awards.
- At our second-ever Taupō Repair Cafe volunteers fixed 45 items to save them from the landfill.
- Swimming NZ awarded a coveted Platinum status to Taupō District Council's swim school.
- The new roundabout at the Wairākei Drive / Huka Falls Road intersection was finished.
- Supercars announced the 2025 dates for the ITM Taupō Super400 event – April 11 to 13.
- We got record interest in our draft Long-term Plan, with 1418 submissions. We confirmed the options and projects in the plan - read more on the right.
- Our contractors and water teams made solid progress on the Lake Terrace infrastructure upgrade project.
- We called for community feedback on the draft Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan.
- Council unanimously voted to retain its Te Papamārearea Māori ward, with a poll to be held at the 2025 local government election.
- Tūrangi water main renewals project in Te Rangitautahanga Road and Paekiri Street kicked off.
- Council installed new destination signs at the entrances to Tūrangi and Taupō to welcome visitors. New signs for Mangakino, Ātiāmuri and Whakamaru are coming in 2025.
- Good progress on Kinloch's new water treatment plant, with foundations now laid.

To read these news stories and more head to: [www.taupo.govt.nz/news](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/news)

## SETTING OUT OUR BLUEPRINT FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS

### You gave us your feedback and we have listened.

Following an 18-month preparation process, Council has adopted its Long-term Plan 2024-34 and set the rates.

The plan was delayed for three months following a change in direction by central government on the future of council water services.

In our consultation for the draft Long-term Plan we asked you for your thoughts on four key topics and you have asked us to do the following:

- Focus on doing the essentials well, such as roads, water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Stick with rubbish bags instead of switching to wheelie bins.
- Partner with a development partner to provide

housing for working families.

- Pursue the wastewater options for Taupō and Tūrangi that were proposed in the plan.

We also asked the community whether they agreed with our proposal to increase fees for some council facilities and services such as entry fees, gym memberships, sportsground hire, landfill charges and swim lessons. At present, all these things are topped up by rates. By putting up our fees, it means that the people who use and benefit from these facilities and services contribute more towards providing them. Feedback on our draft plan agreed with this approach.

**The Long-term Plan also sets out the projects council plans to pursue over the next decade.**

**You can find a copy of the plan on our website here: [taupo.govt.nz/ltp](http://taupo.govt.nz/ltp).**



## RATES PIE IN THIRDS FOR A LIMITED TIME!



**In July and August, we wrote to all our ratepayers to let them know that for this year only, due to late adoption of the Long-term Plan, we will be collecting rates in three instalments, instead of the usual four.**

This meant that we did not charge the first rates instalment in August as usual. Instead, there will be three rates instalments; due on November 20 this year, February 20 2025; and May 20, 2025.

It's important to know the amount of rates you have to pay this year does not change with the shift from four payments to three - just that there are now three larger instalments instead of four smaller ones.

We realise this may not suit all ratepayers and encourage people to get in touch if they want to switch to weekly, fortnightly or monthly rates direct debit payments instead. Contact us on 07 376 0899 or email [info@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:info@taupo.govt.nz).

If you're struggling to pay your rates, the Department of Internal Affairs also administers a rates rebates scheme. Details on this are on our website at [taupo.govt.nz/rates](http://taupo.govt.nz/rates).

**Rates instalments will revert back to four quarterly instalments in the next rating year, which begins on 1 July 2025.**



# UNIQUE MEMENTO MOA EXHIBITION

You may not realise it, but you may already own some artworks by Gary Baseman, who is currently exhibiting at Taupō Museum.

Baseman, a California-based artist and cartoonist, created the visual identity for the best-selling board game *Cranium*, copies of which are already in many New Zealanders' homes.

Now a collection of works creating a mythical land of hybrid creatures and exploring themes of migration, memory, and mortality come together in *Memento Moa*, showing at Taupō Museum's Main Gallery from 28 September to 9 December.

Playing off the phrase "memento mori" which expresses the inevitability of death, Baseman reimagines Aotearoa as a land of rebirth and harmony, bringing back the giant moa from extinction to symbolise those loved and now lost.

As the use of moa suggests, the exhibition has a close connection to New Zealand. Baseman pays tribute to his beloved cousin who emigrated to New Zealand from the United States, but who he never visited at her new home during her lifetime. He made a special trip to Taupō for the opening of the exhibition, holding drawing workshops for adults and children, a meet and greet with the public and other activities during a special museum open day.

Through iconic characters set in fantastical landscapes, *Memento Moa* considers family, history, and the idea of home with the artist's longstanding desire to "celebrate the beauty of the bittersweetness of life".

Baseman uses painting, performance, film and fashion; and his multifaceted career includes illustrations for *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Wall Street Journal* as well as television animations. He has exhibited internationally and his work features in collections around the world.

Don't miss *Memento Moa*, a chance to check out a showing by an internationally-renowned artist in our own backyard.



## SUMMER IS HEATING UP IN THE DISTRICT

The Taupō District is gearing up for a very busy summer season ahead! We have international sporting events, concerts and fireworks as well as our usual summer activities.

We kick off on 30 November with the annual celebration of all things bike, the Lake Taupō Cycle Challenge and follow that up two weeks later with the 2024 VinFast IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship which runs for two days over the weekend of Saturday 14 December and Sunday 15 December. This event is the largest that's ever come to the Taupō District and it's going to be huge! Find out more or volunteer at [www.taupo.govt.nz/ironman](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/ironman).

2025 kicks off with a bang, literally, at The Big Bang Fireworks Display at the stroke of midnight on 1 January. This annual

Taupō lakefront event is a popular way to welcome in the new year. For the littlies or those not into late nights, we have a Mini Bang event at 10pm with a smaller fireworks display for families to enjoy.

Music season arrives in earnest on Friday 27 December with the Le Currents 2024 concert at Owen Delany Park. On Saturday 18 January, L.A.B, Stan Walker, Corrella, Aaradhna and AJA play at the Taupō Amphitheatre. The annual Greenstone Entertainment Taupō Summer Concert returns to the amphitheatre on Saturday 25 January, featuring Cold Chisel, Icehouse, Bic Runga and Everclear.

**With so much going on, it's going to be a hot summer in more ways than one! You can find a full events guide at [lovetapu.com](http://lovetapu.com).**

## LET'S SORT IT OUT AND USE THE RIGHT RUBBISH BAGS - KEEP 'EM TO 60L!



Enviro NZ rubbish collectors lift over 3000 rubbish bags onto the rubbish collection trucks every day. For that reason, bags must be no bigger than 60 litres.

Confused about what size bag to buy? Check out our handy graphic on the left!

The cost of rubbish stickers and yellow bags rose on 1 October to cover the cost of rubbish collection and disposal. This cost is not covered in your rates - we have a pay as you throw system. The less rubbish you produce, the fewer stickers or yellow bags you have to buy.

Rubbish doesn't just go away when it arrives at the landfill - it needs to be managed carefully to avoid it getting into the environment and affecting people, plants, animals and our waterways. Council must also pay the government for each tonne of methane emissions from our landfill.

On your rates invoice you will also see a refuse disposal rate. This is a targeted

rate and covers your kerbside recycling collection, landfill and transfer station operations and Council's recycling and waste education programmes.

**There's heaps of ways to cut down on the amount of rubbish that you are creating.**

**Reduce** - think about what you are buying to avoid it becoming waste later. Do you really need that item? Is it single-use, or likely to break or wear out quickly?

**Reuse** - We offer free Repair Café sessions to extend the life of your goods. You can also donate them to charities or pass them on to friends and whānau.

**Compost food waste** - we offer free home composting workshops throughout the year and vouchers for discounted compost bins.

**Recycle** - You can recycle heaps of items at the kerbside and at landfill.

**Check out a full list here - [www.taupo.govt.nz/recycling](http://www.taupo.govt.nz/recycling)**