



LOOKING AFTER THE PLACE
we love



CLEVER THINKING IMPROVES INSPECTION SAFETY

Ever considered that drones could be used to make a workplace safer? Some clever thinking from our water treatment team means we are doing just that!

As part of looking after the place we love, our water treatment staff regularly carry out inspections of the Taupō District's reservoirs. This is to make sure they are secure and free from potential contamination.

Previously, inspectors completed checks by climbing up ladders and physically having a look – until our water treatment team did a course on height safety and started to think there might be a better way.

This led the team to introduce the use of a drone to carry out inspections. It meant staff weren't climbing ladders up to eight metres high and putting themselves at risk.

Water treatment supervisor Richard Kruse recently gave a presentation on the development at the Water Industry Operations Group Conference and it was published in the Water New Zealand Technology magazine this month.

"The drone gives us photo or video evidence that the reservoirs are secure and eliminates the need to put staff at risk by working at heights," Richard said.

Our team has now been using a drone to carry out inspections for about 12 months.

"It is a lot more efficient – we can get the drone up and down within five minutes as opposed to sending three guys out and setting up the necessary equipment," Richard said. Using a drone was saving about 270 man hours per year, he said.



ARE YOU ENROLLED TO VOTE?

Do you want to have your say on who should help look after the place we love? Time is running out to make sure you're enrolled to vote in October's local body elections.

The Electoral Commission mailed enrolment update packs to the 3.1 million people on the electoral roll at the end of June, to make sure all those who are eligible are correctly enrolled to vote in this year's local elections. However, if you haven't received your enrolment pack, you're not enrolled to vote. This may be because you've moved house recently and haven't yet updated your address details.

The good news is that enrolling or updating your details is easy. You can get an enrolment form from elections.org.nz, by freetexting your name and address to 3676, calling 0800 36 76 56 or going in to any PostShop.

If you want to receive your voting papers in the mail, you need to enrol or update your details by August 12 and your papers will arrive in your mailbox between September 16 and 21. For those enrolling after 12 August, you will need to cast a special vote and will need to contact a Taupō District Council office for voting papers. Once you've received them, all you need to do is complete your voting form and then return it to the electoral officer in the pre-paid envelope included in your voting pack. Papers need to be returned before voting closes at noon on Saturday, October 8.

Voting means you can have your say about who will make important decisions about issues that affect our communities over the next three years, so make sure you're ready and enrolled!



TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE

Ask Donna Paurini why she wants to swim 50km in three months and her response is simple.

"I like the water – it feels free," she said. "Plus you meet a lot of people you haven't seen for a while."

The 48-year-old Turangi resident is one of over 50 people taking part in the Margaret Sweeney Challenge at Turangi's Turtle Pools.

Named after the first woman to swim the 50km from Stump Bay, Turangi to Taupō in the 1950s, the challenge aims to see people swim 50km over three months in an effort to get fit and feel good.

Donna did the challenge last year and managed 100km. This year she is aiming to beat it.

"My sister's doing it too, so the challenge is on," Donna said. "I think we're pretty equal at the moment."

Turangi pool supervisor Suzanne Watson said swimmers aged from

11 to 70-something had signed up, and all were feeling positive and enthusiastic.

"It's great so see so many of our locals have signed up to get fit in the lead up to summer," she said. "We have a fantastic facility here at the pools and it's a good way to make the most of it."

The challenge kicked off on July 25 and included two categories. Elite swimmers will aim to complete 50km by October 10, and novice swimmers will aim to complete the task individually or in a group by a combination of running, jogging or swimming the distance by October 24.

A finale night will be held in October to celebrate those who complete the challenge.

A tally board is being kept at reception at the Turtle Pools, where participants can cross off their kilometres as they progress.

WORK AT WHAREWAKA UNDERWAY

Contractors have set up and begun work on the new path between Wharewaka and Five Mile Bay this week.

Temporary safety fencing went up at the start of the week to cordon off the area contractors will be working in.

The new 2.5m-wide path will run alongside a timber barrier that separates it from a new sealed road and parking area. The area is

currently gravel and used as an accessway for vehicles and pedestrians.

Later this month, contractors will begin reshaping the surrounding banks and creating the foundations for the path. The area is currently closed to vehicles to allow space for our contractors to build the path safely. Pedestrians and cyclists are still able to access the area. Work is expected to be completed by early November, in time for summer.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

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