



## SNOW A CHALLENGE FOR RURAL FAMILIES



LOOKING AFTER THE PLACE  
we love

The weekend was a chilly one for the Taupō District with a good dumping of snow closing roads, bringing down power lines and isolating one of our rural communities.

Emergency manager Ian Connon said residents in the Rangitaiki area were hit the hardest, with power expected to be out for a week or more. Lines company Unison has been undertaking an assessment of its network and installing generators as a temporary supply until repairs are possible.

"We are doing our best to help out with the welfare of the families affected in what we know is a very trying time," he said. "These residents have really rallied together as a farming community and are supporting each other, which is great to see, and we'll continue to assist and support them where we can."

The Napier-Taupō Road (State Highway 5) was closed from Friday night until Tuesday morning, and families living on farms relying on access to the highway were stranded until graders could assist in clearing roads.

A team of our staff, along with our Civil Defence team, coordinated assistance to homes and farms in affected areas that sit within our district. We also visited houses, brought in food and water, and assessed huts and inaccessible locations from the air.

During the weekend's wild weather there were a number of slips, some tree damage and flooding around the district, and these issues were quickly dealt with by our team and contractors.

Please take care on the roads over the next few days as driving conditions remain hazardous in some areas.



## IMPROVED MOBILITY ACCESS FOR TAUPŌ VENUES

People with restricted mobility will benefit from a new disabled car parking area, access path and speed humps that are currently being installed at the AC Baths and Taupō Events Centre.

The improvements come after the recent installation of a hoist and aquatic wheelchair at the complex to help those with mobility issues to get in and out of the water.

The new car parking area will run parallel to the Taupō Events Centre building and will sit alongside two mobility parking spaces already outside the main entrance of the complex.

A path will be installed around a second set of mobility and parent parks near the Youthtown building. The path will link the carparks with the existing walkway that starts at the northern edge of the parks and speed humps will be installed around the main access road to the complex.

A traffic management plan and diversions are in place to allow vehicles to access the AC Baths and Taupō Events Centre. The measures being introduced were decided on after consultation with the Taupō Mobility Access Reference Group.

Pools and activities operations manager Nigel Newberry said the new features would be a reflection of the AC Baths' desire to be more mobility accessible.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for all members of our community to use this fantastic facility," he said. "The new car parking area, path and speed humps will give mobility users more options and better access."

The work is expected to be completed by the end of the month, weather permitting.

## ONE WEEK LEFT TO GIVE FEEDBACK ON REID'S FARM

Time is running out to have your say on how Reid's Farm will be used in the future.

A review of the Reid's Farm Reserve Management Plan is currently underway and there's only a week left for you to share your views by completing a short online survey.

A working group has been formed to investigate options for the reserve and will incorporate survey responses to include what people would like to see Reid's Farm used for in the future.

Community feedback will form a large part of the working group's findings, and will help to build a more current management plan. It will also allow us to make improvements and increase safety at the reserve, address some recent issues around camping, and work with community groups to boost the overall visitor experience.

To complete the survey on Reid's Farm, please visit our website at [taupo.govt.nz](http://taupo.govt.nz) or contact [reidsfarm@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:reidsfarm@taupo.govt.nz) by 5pm on Friday, 19 August.



## CANDIDATES LIST NOW AVAILABLE

Community members from around the Taupō District have been busy putting their nomination forms together for the upcoming local elections, and when nominations close at noon today we'll know who has put their hand up to look after the place we love.

A list of candidates who have already submitted their nomination is available on our website at [taupo.govt.nz](http://taupo.govt.nz), with the final list available shortly after noon today.

From here, we'll see candidates campaigning in the community for a chance at becoming an elected representative. Available roles are the district's mayor and councillors, community board members, regional councillors, and members of district health boards.

As well as nominations closing, elector rolls also close today. Once you're enrolled, your voting papers will arrive in your mailbox between September 16 and

21. For those enrolling after today, a special vote will need to be cast by contacting a Taupō District Council office for voting papers. Don't forget, all voting papers need to be returned before voting closes at noon on October 8.



## What's on?

- 18 August Power from the Earth with Paul Bixley, Taupō Library
- 22 August Playday on Track for bikes, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- 24 August The Merchant Wine, Craft Beer & Food Expo, Great Lake Centre
- 30 August Council meeting, Council Chamber

For more information on Taupō District events visit [www.GreatLakeTaupo.com](http://www.GreatLakeTaupo.com)

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

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